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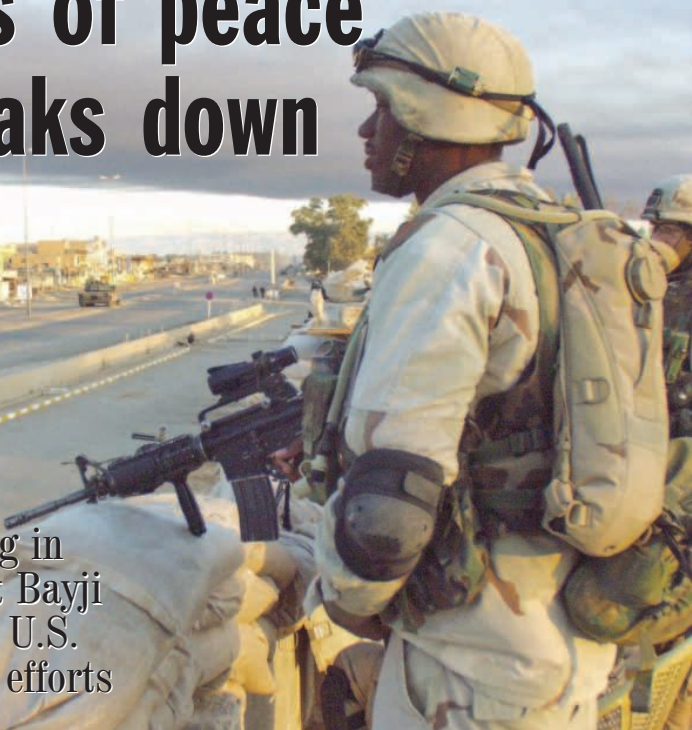
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004

Oasis of peace breaks down

Uprising in once-quiet Bayji disrupts U.S. rebuilding efforts

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STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Under a sooty cloud from a nearby oil refinery, Sgt. Melvin Davis, 32, of Battery B of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7, surveys the empty main street of Bayji, Iraq. The street has been closed to Iraqi traffic during the day for the past several weeks since a violent uprising began in the city, including a car bombing that injured three U.S. soldiers. Troops say they can't understand why the people of Bayji side with the terrorists when Americans have built new buildings for them and given gifts to many of the city's children.

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Newsracker ... What's new with old news

States

Mount St. Helens: A 3.1-magnitude earthquake shook the crater at Mount St. Helens on Saturday, the strongest quake at the volcano since mid-October.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists said they do not believe a major eruption is imminent — just a continuation of the minor ash and steam eruptions that have been occurring since the mountain reawakened this fall.

Scientists hoped good weather Sunday and Monday would allow them to get a better look at the volcano.

World

Russian school siege: The head of a parliamentary commission investigating the September hostage siege at a school in southern Russia said there is evidence pointing to involvement by a foreign intelligence agency, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday.

The statement was the latest of several in which Russian officials and politicians have alleged that foreigners were involved in the Sept. 1-3 attack on a school in the southern town of Beslan, which ended in bloody chaos and left more than 330 people dead, many of them children.

Russian officials initially said the attackers killed at the school included nine or 10 Arabs, but they never provided any proof of that.

China airliner crash: Experts have decoded the flight recorders of an airliner that exploded and crashed in a lake in northeastern China, killing 55 people, but the cause of the accident remains unclear, according to official reports.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders were pulled Wednesday from the icy lake near the city of Baotou where the China Eastern Airlines plane crashed Nov. 25, killing 55 people, officials in Beijing said they found no evidence of terrorism.

All 47 passengers and six crew members aboard the Canadian-built Bombardier CRJ-200 plane were killed. Two people were killed on the ground.

Abu Sayyaf leader killed: Government troops killed a leader of the notorious Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf in a shoot-out in the southern Philippines, officials said Sunday.

Munap Manialah, also known as Commander Munap, was killed Saturday in a firefight with Philippine army and navy troops in southern Basilan island's Isabela city, Philippine army spokesman Maj. Bartolome Bacaro said in a statement.

Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf — notorious for kidnappings and beheadings — as a terrorist group, and has offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of its top leaders, including Abu Sayyaf chief Khaddafy Janjalani.

The Abu Sayyaf began a kidnapping spree in May 2001, setting a total of 102 people, including three Americans, one of whom was beheaded.

SARS vaccine test: Thirty-six Chinese volunteers participating in the world's first SARS human vaccine tests are "in good condition," the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday.

The volunteers were injected between May and August as part of China's aggressive research aimed at preventing a new outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, which first emerged in 2002 in the southern province of Guangdong.

It is too soon to tell if the vaccine is effective, Xinhua said, citing Dr. Zhong Nanshan, a SARS expert. He said test results will be released in January.

Nepal negotiations: Maoist rebels on Saturday rejected the latest offer and deadline set by the Nepalese government for peace talks, saying they would only agree to negoti-



Slain hunters: Mourners react Saturday as they watch hearse carrying the caskets of Robert and Joseph Croteau pull away from St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rice Lake, Wis.

Robert Croteau, 42, and his son, Joseph, 20, were two of six hunters shot and killed in northwestern Wisconsin on Nov. 21. Both were killed in a confrontation with another hunter. The funeral for another victim, Allan Laski, was held later Saturday. The man accused in the shootings, Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., remained in jail awaiting formal charges.

ations with international mediators present.

The government said Thursday it was giving the rebels 30 days to come to the peace table or miss their last chance to discuss demands for ending a long-running insurgency. The government has also warned that if the rebels fail to show, the government will go ahead with parliamentary elections without addressing their demands.

But rebel leader Prachanda said in a statement the only way out was peace talks in the presence of international mediators and an independent election for a special assembly that would draft a new constitution. The rebels have been fighting since February 1996 to replace Nepal's monarchy with a communist state.

Freed U.N. workers: Two U.N. workers who spent nearly a month in the hands of mysterious kidnappers flew out of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday toward the warm welcomes of relatives and friends in Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

Annetta Flanagan and Shajpe Hebbi, wrapped in scarves against the morning chill, gave a last hug to colleagues before boarding a white United Nations plane and taking off for an undisclosed destination. They were the only passengers.

EU to aid Sudan: The European Union pledged humanitarian aid for Sudan on Sunday to help avert a "major food crisis" brewing in the troubled Darfur region due to continuing hostilities.

Newly appointed EU Commissioner Louis Michel announced the aid in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum after touring Darfur, in the west of the country.

In a statement released in Brussels, Belgium, he also called for "all armed groups" to stop attacking civilians and "allow aid workers to do their difficult and vital job as safely as possible."

Mexico federal agent killings: Four federal police officers were suspended without pay as prosecutors investigate alleged police negligence in the vigilante killings of two federal agents this week, officials said Saturday.

The two victims and a third agent, who survived, were photographing an elementary school in San Juan Itzayopan on Mexico City's southern outskirts for an anti-drug operation when they were mistaken for kidnappers Tuesday.

The men were seized by an angry crowd and savagely beaten. Two of them were

doomed with paint thinner and set ablaze, and their deaths were captured on tape and repeatedly televised nationwide.

Equatorial Guinea coup plot: The British government was given details of an alleged plot to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea, including the names of mercenaries and the expected date of the attack, months in advance, a newspaper reported Sunday.

According to The Observer, two senior British intelligence officers were sent detailed reports in December 2003 and January 2004 by former South African special forces commander Johann Smith, who had learned of the plot.

The alleged plot was exposed in March by South African intelligence services.

War on terrorism

Gitmo tribunals: Two alleged members of the ousted Taliban regime and a man accused of links to the al-Qaida network appeared Saturday before review tribunals at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said.

All three men spoke at their hearings, but the military has provided no transcripts of statements made at the review tribunals. No names or nationalities were released.

French hostages in Iraq: Two French hostages held captive for more than 100 days appear to be alive and in good spirits, a British newspaper that received film footage of the men reported Sunday.

The Sunday Times said it had a CD-ROM recording in which Christian Chesnot says he and his fellow reporter Georges Malbrunot are being well treated by their captors "although their hospitality is not like a

five-star hotel." The newspaper said it began recording had been made earlier this month.

The men disappeared Aug. 20 while driving to the Iraqi city of Najaf. Their Syrian driver, Mohammed al-Joundi, also was captured but was rescued Nov. 11 by U.S. Marines sweeping Fallujah.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Chesnot

Official: Iraqi vote must go ahead

43 suspected insurgents arrested; car bomb kills six

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's deputy prime minister said holding elections in January will be "a serious challenge," but he insisted Sunday they must go ahead as scheduled. As part of the effort to address security concerns, U.S. troops and Iraqi paramilitary police arrested 43 suspected insurgents in the northern city of Mosul, the military said.

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, a car bomb killed six people and injured five others. Two American soldiers were injured in an attack on their convoy in Baghdad.

Barham Saleh said delaying the scheduled Jan. 30 vote would have "serious ramifications to the political process" and would bolster the cause of terrorists.

"Under the law it cannot be postponed and the government is working on the premise that the elections will be held on time," Saleh told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Iraq's continuing insurgency is hampering reconstruction and threatens the national elections. U.S. officials and their British allies see the elections as a key step toward returning power to Iraqis, a prerequisite for withdrawing occupation forces.

Sunni Muslim politicians have called for postponing the election, although the country's powerful Shiite clergy and the interim government oppose such a move.

The spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, said Saturday the government was sticking by the Jan. 30 date after receiving assurances from the Iraqi Electoral Commission that an election could take place even in Sunni areas wracked by the insurgency.

Saleh acknowledged there were security problems in certain areas but said the assault on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah would deny the terrorists "a major safe haven."

"Cracking to that timetable will be difficult, will be a serious challenge," he said. "But delaying elections will be much more difficult because it will have serious ramifications to the political process, to the issue of legitimacy, and surely all of us do not want to give the terrorists the slightest of technical wins in that situation."

The blast in Samarra occurred as a minibus drove past a school in the 7-Nissan district of the city, said police Maj. Qahtan Mohammed. All the casualties were passengers in the minibus, he said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops regained control of Samarra after insurgents during military operations in September but the city remains uneasy.

In Mosul, the 43 suspected insurgents were arrested as part of an ongoing operation to re-establish control of Iraq's third-largest city, a military statement said.

Members of Task Force Olym-



U.S. Army and Iraqi National Guard soldiers remove a body Sunday found near a cemetery in Mosul, Iraq. Ten bodies were recovered Sunday in Mosul, where at least 50 people have been murdered in the past 10 days. Most of the victims are believed to have been supporters of Iraq's interim government or members of its fledgling security forces.

pia — which is responsible for security in Mosul and northern Iraq — and Iraqi police commandos conducted a series of raids throughout the city on Saturday, the statement said.

At least 50 people have been killed in Mosul in the past 10 days. Most of the victims are believed to have been supporters of Iraq's interim government or members of its fledgling security forces.

On Sunday, a militant group led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the deaths of 17 members of Iraq's security forces and a Kurdish militiaman in Mosul in the previous two days. The claim, posted on an Islamic Web site, could not be independently verified.

The killings appear to be part of a campaign of violence against government supporters launched by rebels after an armed uprising in the city earlier this month. The bloodshed has cast doubt on the Iraqi forces' ability to protect the country.

Elsewhere, two U.S. soldiers were injured early Sunday when a car bomb exploded next to their military convoy on the road leading to Baghdad's airport, a military statement said. The bomb damaged one vehicle, the military said, and two soldiers were taken to a military hospital.

The military statement said there were no reported civilian casualties. But the interim government's Youth Ministry reported that its general director, Ahmed Faiq, and his bodyguard were injured in the attack.

Fadhil Jawad, who said he watched the attack from his roof,

described a late-model luxury car overtaking the six-vehicle convoy moments before exploding in a ball of fire.

Jawad said two Humvees in the convoy were destroyed by the blast and the rest scattered off the road. Two Black Hawk helicopters arrived to evacuate wounded soldiers, he said.

A military spokesman said he could not comment on the report that two vehicles were destroyed.

The highway leading from downtown to the international air-

port is considered one of the most dangerous stretches of road in Iraq for U.S. troops. Insurgents regularly target military convoys and combat patrols on the busy thoroughfare.

On Sunday, a soldier was killed in a truck accident in northern Iraq, the U.S. military said.

The soldier, whose name was not released, was traveling in a 5-ton truck that rolled into a canal near Sadiyah, the military said. It was not known whether the crash was due to hostile fire.

Associated Press reporter Jeff Johnson in London contributed to this report.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,236 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile attack, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT. The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,098 U.S. military members have died, according to

AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile attack, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near a patrol north of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Pfc. Ryan J. Cantafio, 22, Beaver Dam, Wis.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to the Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago.

■ Marine Sgt. Benjamin C. Edinger, 24, Green Bay, Wis.; died Tuesday at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., from injuries received Nov. 14 in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Iraqi training in Egypt

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi infantry company has started training with the Egyptian army as part of an international effort to boost the capabilities of Iraq's fledgling security forces, a U.S. military statement said.

The statement said that 134 soldiers from Iraq's 5th Division had begun training with at the Mubarak Military City near Alexandria with members of the Egyptian army's 3rd Division.

It said the course would include individual and squad movement, land navigation, rifle marksmanship, platoon and company tactical attack and defense maneuvers. The company will return to Iraq in mid-December.

Several of Iraq's neighbors, including Jordan and Egypt, have offered to train the interim government's military and police units. Some NATO members also have pledged to provide military instructors for a training mission in Iraq.

Aid through Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria — Two trucks loaded with six tons of medical supplies donated by the Dutch Red Cross organization entered into Iraq on Sunday from the northeastern Syrian border, reported SANA, Syria's official news agency.

The trucks were received by the Iraqi Red Crescent organization, reported SANA. The supplies were to be distributed to Iraqi hospitals and health centers.

The trucks passed through the al-Yarubiya border crossing between Syria and Iraq and the Syrian Red Crescent organization supervised the supplies, said SANA. The Syrian government helped with the operation, added the agency.

SANA did not say how much the dispatch was worth or specify the official departure point of the trucks.

The agency quoted William Smith, a Dutch Red Cross representative, who also said his organization is planning to send more humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi people.

Singapore gives more

SINGAPORE — Singapore dispatched a troop landing ship with a crew of 180 to Iraq on Saturday in the city-state's latest military contribution to coalition forces there.

The RSS Resolution will stay in the Persian Gulf for three months, the city-state's defense ministry said.

The crew's mission is to protect the waters around key oil terminals, provide logistical support for coalition vessels and helicopters, and conduct patrols and boarding operations, the statement said.

Singapore earlier deployed a troop landing ship, a C-130 transport plane and an KC-135 tanker aircraft to the Persian Gulf for Iraq's reconstruction efforts. It also sent 32 police officers to Baghdad for two months in July to help train Iraqi police.

The wealthy Southeast Asian island has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

From The Associated Press

A bridge is broken in Bayji



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Insurgents blew up the center support for this highway bridge near Forward Operating Base Summerall on Nov. 13, effectively cutting off a key military supply route. Engineers from the 216th Engineer Battalion of the Ohio National Guard have nearly completed a mile-long bypass around the bridge.

In new insurgent attacks, U.S. troops lose connection to once-peaceful city

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
SUMMERALL, Iraq

What in the world has gone wrong in Bayji? By Iraqi standards, this crossroads city of 125,000 on the Baghdad-Mosul highway used to be peaceful. But military leaders worry that a spate of recent attacks have eroded months of U.S. work to rebuild the region.

Attacks against U.S. forces averaged fewer than one a day in the 80-by-60-mile region around Bayji, patrolled by the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7.

Then on Nov. 9, all hell broke loose.

That day, insurgents attacked Task Force 1-7 patrols in several parts of the city at once and turned Bayji's main north-south artery, Highway 1, into a shooting gallery. The firefight lasted more than five hours. There were no U.S. casualties, but about 25 enemy fighters died.

On Nov. 13, rebels blew up the center support of a crucial bridge along a city bypass near FOB Summerall, forcing convoys supplying the base to roll through the heart of the city. The next day, the rebels provoked another firefight that lasted all morning and caused more destruction to Bayji's business district.

And on Nov. 17, a suicide car bomber attacked an Army Bradley fighting vehicle, killing a dozen Iraqis and injuring more than 20 other people, including three U.S. soldiers.

"The last two weeks have been pretty intense," said 1st Sgt. Michael Grinston, 36, of Jasper, Ala., the senior noncommissioned officer in Task Force 1-7's Battery C.

During the first three weeks of November, insurgents attacked coalition military or civilian targets 82 times in the Bayji region. That was more than double the previous record of 37 attacks, set in July and equaled in October.

Task force commanders were most surprised by a big jump in roadside bombs. Soldiers have gotten better at both finding them and protecting against them; they've defused nearly half of the 56 bombs discovered this month before they detonated, and injuries have been few.

Tactically, the Bayji battles have been a huge vic-



AP/Stars and Stripes



tory for the U.S. forces. No Americans have died, and only a few have suffered injuries, while dozens of insurgents have been killed.

But Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, the task force commander, said the battles have eroded months of strategic progress in rebuilding Bayji — especially its downtown shopping thoroughfare, which Americans call Market Street — into a busy commercial hub.

He said the insurgents have staged most of their battles from the Market Street shops, because few Iraqis live there and American vehicles make easy targets on the narrow street.

SEE BAYJI ON PAGE 5



WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Top: An M1 tank from Battery C of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 rolls down Highway 1, the main north-south street in Bayji, Iraq. The street has been shut to daytime traffic, except for U.S. supply convoys, because of rebel attacks in recent weeks. **Above:** Task Force 1-7 soldiers talk with Bayji shopkeepers. **Left:** Spc. Greg McMeekan, 23, front, and Sgt. Melvin Davis, 32, scan the Bayji skyline from the roof of the mayor's office. McMeekan and Davis are members of Company A of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment from Schweinfurt, Germany, but are currently attached to Task Force 1-7.

Bayji: Setback for efforts

BAYJI, FROM PAGE 4

The fighting has left the downtown in ruins. Those shops not shattered by rockets and gunfire now rarely open up for business. Since the car bombing, McClelland has shut down traffic on Highway 1 from early morning until late afternoon each day so U.S. supply convoys can get through safely.

"You're not winning the hearts and minds of anybody this way," McClelland, 41, of Chicopee, Mass., said Friday. "All the work we've accomplished in nine months was basically destroyed in two days."

McClelland's troops are working to restore some semblance of normalcy to the strategic city, which is home to Iraq's largest oil-refinery and two major power plants that together generate about one-third of the country's meager power supply.

First Lt. Mark Dilts, 31, is supervising a 22-member team of Ohio National Guardsmen from the 216th Engineer Battalion that is building a gravel bypass road around the bombed-out bridge. His soldiers and 10 pieces of heavy equipment have worked sunup to sundown each day, spreading rock and constructing a new railroad crossing while Task Force 1-7 soldiers guard their attack.

"It's almost a mile of road that we've built," Dilts said.

The road, which Dilts hopes to have open in a few days, would let trucks bypass the city again and would allow McClelland to reopen Bayji's main road to traffic. Like all military units in Iraq, Task Force 1-7 has funded construction of schools and medical clinics in the city. On Thursday, soldiers placed concrete barricades in front of the shopworn precinct, a gleaming, new \$700,000 bank.

New turbines also are being installed at one of the power plants, which should begin boosting the country's electrical capacity before the end of the year, according to a 1st ID news release.

"For the most part, we are making forward progress. We meet roadblocks, and we overcome them," McClelland said. "We'll leave [Bayji] better than we found it."

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WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

'The whole city, from every side, was fighting'

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, Iraq — Guerrillas hiding in "gasoline alley," a fuel and maintenance district on the city's south edge, opened fire on Staff Sgt. James Tucker's platoon with grenades and AK-47s as it left Bayji around midday Nov. 9 after a quiet, three-hour patrol.

Tucker's men — from Task Force 1-7, based at nearby FOB Summerall — jumped out and flanked the insurgents while gunners laid down cover fire with 50-caliber machine guns. When they'd killed or driven off the gunmen, they discovered nine homemade bombs and some rocket-propelled grenades.

"They were setting up for an attack," said Tucker, 30, of Tulare, Calif. "It could have been a lot worse."

Within a few minutes of that encounter U.S. and Iraqi troops in several parts of the city came under fire. U.S. patrols and convoys dodged heavy gunfire all the way down Highway 1, the main north-south thoroughfare in Bayji, a city of 125,000 people.

"There was so much gunfire, we couldn't

get through," said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Manning, 29, of Valdosta, Ga., a platoon sergeant in the unit's Battery C. "Pretty much the whole city, from every side, was fighting."

For most Task Force 1-7 troops who were there, it was the longest, fiercest gunbattle they'd seen during nine months in Iraq.

"[Nov. 9] was the first time in a long time we've had a straight-up fight," said Sgt. Melvin Davis of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, currently assigned to Task Force 1-7.

"[Usually] [the rebels] just take off running," said Spc. Greg McMeekkan, 23, of Okla. City, Mich., one of Davis' soldiers. "This time, hell no, they stood their ground."

Task Force 1-7 combat platoons ran a gauntlet of rifle fire to take up positions at the police station and city hall, both on Highway 1. Tanks and Bradleys headed down "Market Street," the city's chief shopping area and the insurgents' favorite spot for mounting attacks.

The armored vehicles blasted away at nests of rebels, inflicting heavy damage on the neighborhood.

"We destroyed a lot of the buildings, the places where they fight," said Capt. Michael



HENRY BYARD/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Left: Capt. Daric Holbrook of Task Force 1-7 emerges from the rubble of a burned-out building on Bayji's Market Street. The Iraqi city's business district was destroyed during firefights between U.S. Army troops and local insurgents Nov. 9 and Nov. 14.

Above: A fuel tanker burns in downtown Bayji during a firefight Nov. 9 between U.S. forces from the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 and Iraqi insurgents. A tank shot a rocket at the fuel tanker because rebels were using it as cover.

Byard, 30, of Trenton, N.J., the Battery C commander.

At one point, insurgents were firing at U.S. and Iraqi positions from behind a fuel truck on Highway 1. After getting permission from his commander, Tucker fired an AT4 rocket at it.

It exploded in an enormous fireball that was visible for miles.

"It was like a nuclear bomb," said Davis, 32, of Houston.

McMeekkan, on the police department rooftop 500 meters away, said he had to turn his head away from the intense heat.

"I don't know what happened to those [insurgents]," Tucker said, "but they weren't there anymore."

Late in the day, the opposition vanished into the city. Task Force 1-7 counted at least 20 enemy dead and left the downtown in ruins.

Soldiers can't figure out why the people in Bayji side with the terrorists when the Americans have built new buildings for them and given out toys and school supplies to many of the city's children.

"You hope they'll become frustrated with the [insurgents], but they're intimidated, too," Byard said. "Why do they always attack the people who are trying to help them?"

"We tried to start out as humanitarians," said Tucker, who has been nominated for a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions Nov. 9. "We tell these people, 'we want to help but you have to help us.'"

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Marines take a methodical approach south of Baghdad

BY JACKIE SPINNER

The Washington Post

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSI, Iraq — Through the scattered towns and along the dangerous roads of an area that one commander described as "kind of like the worst place in the world," U.S. Marines, British soldiers and Iraqi security forces are waging an old-fashioned war that is very different from the urban warfare waged elsewhere in Iraq in recent weeks.

Unlike the massive military push by the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, or similar assaults on Samarra or Mosul, the operation here in Babil province

has involved few firefights. It consists mostly of gathering intelligence and launching raids on homes and suspected weapons caches. Insurgents here are not clustered in urban neighborhoods but scattered over wide areas of what many Iraqis call the "triangle of death."

"We have to go out and hunt them down," said Col. Ron Johnson, commander of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is conducting Operation Plymouth Rock, so called because it started around Thanksgiving.

Since Tuesday, a combined force of more than 5,000 U.S., British and Iraqi troops has mounted

raids in a region south of Baghdad that resulted in the detention of more than 130 people. Most recently, the troops have targeted the dusty town of Yusufiyah, where 856 projectiles were discovered, the U.S. military said.

Officers say those numbers do not reflect the actual scope of the operation. U.S. military officials estimate that they could be fighting as many as 6,000 insurgents in the region, most of them disgruntled and unemployed local residents. Among them are said to be former members of the Republican Guard, a key element of Saddam Hussein's disbanded Iraqi military.

Johnson said the strategic im-

portance of northern Babil stems from its geographic location along major transportation arteries that link Baghdad with southern Iraq and also extend west to Fallujah and beyond. "It's a natural line of drift" for insurgents, he said.

Military officials in Babil said they have seen an influx of fighters and weapons since the Fallujah offensive. Maj. Clint Nusberger, the intelligence officer for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, said many of the insurgents were locals who went to Fallujah to fight and then came back. He estimated that between 200 and 300 such fighters returned to the area "with more skills than when they left."

Johnson said the U.S.-led force would take a methodical approach to wiping out the insurgency in north Babil.

Last month, a platoon of Marines and Iraqi National Guardsmen established a new police station in a government building on the southern edge of Latifiyah. Although they acknowledged that they did not control the town, U.S. military officials said they would ultimately take it back from the insurgents.

"I could take Latifiyah in an afternoon, but why am I going to kill innocent civilians?" Johnson said.

Special correspondent Omar Fekiki contributed to this report.

Iraqi SWAT team trains and fights with U.S. Marines

By BRUCE WALLACE
Los Angeles Times

JABELLA, Iraq — The Cobra attack helicopters thumping overhead disrupt the predawn stillness of this rural town, agitating the roosters and the dogs. Through the cacophony and a cold rain, troops wearing the signature uniforms of the U.S. Marine Corps' Force Reconnaissance platoon race down pot-holed streets, balacavas hiding their faces.

The tan-colored masks not only make the raiders appear frightening, they disguise the fact that the men behind them are not Americans at all, but Iraqis.

This is the embryonic Iraqi SWAT team in action, raising families out of their sleep and rounding men up for questioning about the deadly insurgency tormenting U.S. and Iraqi government forces in towns such as Jabella, south of Baghdad.

The hooded policemen leave their calling card behind: a postcard-size photo of the SWAT team in full gear carrying the message "Are You a Criminal or Terrorist? You Will Face Punishment."

The flashy raid is aimed at creating a daring image for the 125-man SWAT team, an attempt by their American military patrons to turn them into a sort of Iraqi version of the Untouchables. Marine commanders also have thrown the SWAT team into frontline action in the current campaign of raids across northern Babil province, a push to flush insurgents and criminals out of their strongholds.

Most of the Iraqis in the SWAT team came from the town of Hillah in Babil, but have lived and trained with Marines at a base near home since August. The close partnership with the Marines is an experiment in trying to inoculate Iraqi security forces against the violence and intimidation that makes joining them so perilous.

For their part, the SWAT team members are their readiness to lead aggressive raids is a rebuttal to those who say Iraqis are not prepared to fight for control of their country. "It's like a family, and we don't care if one of us dies; his brother will rise to avenge him," said Col. Salaam Turrad Abdul Khadim, a former Iraqi special force officer who recruited his team from the ranks of other unemployed soldiers living in Hillah, a largely Shiite Muslim town 50 miles south of Baghdad.

"Every time we go on a mission against the terrorists, we are the ones who start the fight," he said. "We prove our courage."

Braving bomb-rigged roads in unarmored pickup trucks, the Iraqis have conducted 30 joint missions with the Marines since August. They frequently go in first and, since hooking up with the Americans, have not had a man killed in action.

"Before that, we had lots of dead," Salaam said. "Maybe 10."

U.S. commanders say they are pleased with the Iraqis' performance.

"They fought with us, they bled with us, and they'll stick to my side just as my men do," said Col. Ron Johnson, who commands the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which hosts the SWAT team.

The Iraqis were training at home in Hillah with private sector security firms when the Marines arrived and Johnson invited them to move in with the Force Reconnaissance platoon, the Marine version of special forces. His idea was to avoid the plague of U.S. deaths from defections to the insurgency that has crippled the development of a homegrown Iraqi security force.

Col. Ron Johnson
24th Marine
Expeditionary Unit

The Iraqis and Americans would eat together and shower in the same facilities, Johnson ordered. He gave American uniforms to the Iraqis. He told the Marines to grow mustaches.

Johnson did have to override early suspicions among some of his Marines that they were being asked to baby-sit the Iraqis. The members of the elite force arrived with big notions for action in Iraq and found themselves wondering if their partners would cramp their style.

But the integrated group has formed a bond between the Americans and Iraqis, both sides say. The cultural differences are submerged under the daily demands of living and fighting side by side.

When together, they are together, and it has made us close," said Capt. Tad Douglas, 28, of Waynesville, N.C., who commands the platoon. "We were about camp in Jordan. There was a day when one of the Iraqis went down in a mortar attack, and one of my guys went out right away to pick him up and carry him to safety."

Another 125 Iraqis are due to join the SWAT force from police training camps in Jordan this weekend, and the Iraqi government — desperate to find a solution to their policing problem — has plans to see 500 in uniform



Iraqi National Guard soldiers set out from an Iraqi police station Thursday to recover bodies after two men were found murdered in Mosul, Iraq. Twenty bodies were found in Mosul in the past week, including 10 identified as Iraqi regular army soldiers.

Insurgents' brutal campaign targets Iraqi security forces

By MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The warning left in the garage of Omar Hameed, Iraqi National Guardsman, showed two bloody swords and a message: "If you don't quit your job in three days, you will be killed."

The next day, Hameed, still recovering from a leg injury after gunmen attacked his patrol, gave his reply in signs he hung in the market of his hometown of Mahmudiya and on the street leading to his home: "I wash my hands of the Iraqi National Guard."

He said the decision to give up his job, which paid a relatively hefty \$190 a month, was easy because he knew the alternative.

"They have killed many people," Hameed said. "They can reach you anywhere. They can easily break into homes to kidnap or kill you."

As the Jan. 30 election approaches, insurgents aiming to wreck Iraq's democratic transformation have been targeting members of the country's fledgling security forces with increasing brutality and precision.

Car bombings, mortar attacks and drive-by shootings have been followed by kidnappings, ambushes, executions and beheadings, with corpses dumped in orchards and on roadsides, sometimes laid out in rows.

The operations show enough sophistication and planning to raise the question of whether insurgents get inside help. Such attacks also continue to undermine efforts to build strong security forces — key to the exit strategy of foreign troops — and have cast doubt on the Iraqi forces' ability

to protect themselves, let alone the country.

On Thursday and Friday, 32 bodies were discovered in the northern city of Mosul, bringing the number found in Mosul and surrounding areas to 52 since Nov. 18. At least 11 — none of them shot execution-style — were members of the security forces. The rest have not been identified.

"It's a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public."

Lt. Col. Paul Hastings
a U.S. military spokesman
in Mosul

"It's a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public," said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a U.S. military spokesman in Mosul. "Their campaign has been directed at what appears to be Iraqi security forces."

He blamed Saddam Hussein loyalists and Islamic extremists. Since an insurgent uprising in Mosul earlier this month that saw masked gunmen overpowering police and burning and looting some police stations, there had been "accelerated and very delib-

erate attacks on Iraqi security forces," he added.

Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin, the senior Iraqi National Guard official in the northern city of Kirkuk, said the change in techniques showed a highly adaptable and astute enemy.

"They're smart people," he said. "They have planners and they have people experienced in the art of warfare. They make preparations, have weapons and the Internet."

To work around increased security measures, such as barricades around military bases to fend off car bombers, militants have turned to kidnapping or ambushing security forces, he said.

Insurgents also have been able to infiltrate security forces, buying or extorting information and tracking troop movements by monitoring their radio transmissions, he added.

Soldiers returning home from base often are ambushed. Maj. Gen. Rashid Felehi, commander of a special police force dispatched to Mosul after the latest violence there, said insurgents sometimes have people waiting at bus and car terminals to monitor troops getting rides from there.

Though statistics on the ethnic and religious breakdown of Iraqi soldiers are not available, some militants have tried to paint the fight as one pitting Sunni insurgents against Shiite soldiers.

But officials say National Guardsmen are mostly targeted just for serving in the security forces.

"They think of us all as spies for the Americans," said Hameed, who is Sunni. "In the force, we all wanted to watch out for each other. We were scared and we all joined to make a living."



Iraqi women in Baghdad on Tuesday read a poster of a fatwa issued by Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani encouraging people to vote in Iraq's upcoming elections. As Iraq's Sunni Muslims ponder boycotting the Jan. 30 election, the majority Shiite Muslims face another threat to an expected Shiite victory: a split in Shiite ranks that could cost them the chance to dominate the next parliament.

Shiite split could threaten dominance in Iraq election

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As Iraq's Sunni Muslims ponder boycotting the Jan. 30 election and some press for a delay, the majority Shiite Muslims face another threat to their expected victory: a split in Shiite ranks that could cost them the chance to dominate the next parliament.

Separate candidate lists are being compiled by aides to President Ghazi al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — drawing Shiites away from the ticket that the country's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani is overseeing, according to well-connected Shiite figures.

The chairman of Iraq's elections commission told The Associated Press that last week's international conference on Iraq has strengthened the government's resolve to hold the election on time.

Abdul-Hussein Hendawi also said demands that the vote be postponed could be met only if political consensus is found, since the country had no legislature to adopt such a move.

For Iraq's Shiites — about 60 percent of the population — the vote could herald an end to centuries of oppression at the hands of Sunni Arabs, a minority that enjoyed the backing of former Ottoman and British colonial masters and, until last year, Saddam Hussein's patronage.

Voters will choose a 275-member assembly that, among other things, will draw up a permanent constitution. If adopted in a nationwide referendum, the document would serve as basis for another general election by December 2005.

With so much riding on the election, al-Sistani has been working to unite the Shiites ahead of the vote to ensure victory. The Iranian-born cleric is overseeing the work of top aides seeking to compile a 165-candidate list that would be put to the voters nationwide.

Under an election law adopted this year, there will be no electoral boundaries for the January vote, with the entire country treated as a single constituency. A system of proportional representation will be applicable, with voters asked to cast ballots for independent candidates or slates of at least 12 candidates.

But Allawi's efforts to persuade Allawi to join his ticket have so far failed, according to people close to the Shiite cleric.

Allawi, a secular Shiite, remains adamant to go it alone with his own list of candidates, even as al-Sistani recently sent a top Shiite politician to try to win him over.

The Shiite insiders, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Allawi's refusal may in part be because his rival, senior Shiite politician Ahmad Chalabi of the Iraqi National Congress, is on al-Sistani's ticket.

Another reason could be that the prime minister is trying to cultivate an image as a national, rather than sectarian, leader to win support outside Shiite ranks.

Al-Sistani had invited non-Shiites to join a national list, but none has come forward.

The Shiite insiders said they could not rule out a change of heart by Allawi, whose Iraq National Accord includes both Shiites and Sunni Arabs, as well as Kurds and former members of Saddam's Baath party.

"At the end, he may feel the need for al-Sistani's support," said one Shiite familiar with the matter.

Another setback to al-Sistani's effort to unite the Shiites comes from the prime minister and al-Sistani's envoy. "But right now, he's riding on a series of diplomatic and military victories against his critics and might be playing hard to get in the hope of winning concessions."

Hendawi, the election commission chief, said a total of 217 political parties and movements have registered to run as of Thursday night.

Another setback to al-Sistani's effort to unite the Shiites comes from al-Yawer, the interim president. Although a Sunni Arab, al-Yawer commands the loyalty of Shiite clans that belong to the large Shammar tribe, of which he is a top sheik.

Al-Yawer is running in the election at the head of the new Iraqi Party and is cultivating support from Kurds, Sunnis, Shiites and Christians. Hazem Shaalan, al-Sistani's Shiite defense minister, has joined him.

Representatives of Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical Shiite cleric whose supporters rose up against U.S. forces twice this year, are taking part in negotiations with al-Sistani's aides. But they are making their support conditional on the number of seats that will eventually be allocated to their movement.

Minister: Japanese troops might stay in Iraq through '05

BY NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's defense chief indicated Sunday that Japanese troops could remain in Iraq through late 2005, a year longer than their current mandate, in order to fulfill their reconstruction mission.

Some 500 Japanese troops are on a humanitarian mission in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah and their mandate is set to expire on Dec. 14 this year. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has expressed support for extending the deployment, but the government has not yet made a decision.

Asked about a potential pullout, Defense Minister Yoshitomi Ono said several factors had to be considered, including whether the troops had fulfilled their mission to help rebuild the war-torn country and if January national elections in Iraq are successful in establishing a new government.

"Another factor to consider is that a mission by multinational troops expires next December — that could be one cutoff point," Ono said during an appearance on a morning news program on public broadcasting NHK.

Ono was referring to a December 2005 deadline by which the U.S. Security Council resolution enacted in May. That resolution included steps to establish a constitutional assembly and end the mandate of the U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq.

Many have strongly opposed Japan's dispatch and the issue has been debated fiercely in the parliament in recent days. Opinion polls show as many as 60 percent of Japanese want the troops to withdraw next month.

Fears for the safety of the troops — who are rebuilding infrastructure and purifying water — have increased recently, due in part to the firing of mortars at the Japanese camp in Samawah and the beheading of a Japanese backpacker in Baghdad by militants last month.

The troops also must operate in a noncombat zone under legal restrictions authorizing the dispatch because Japan's pacifist constitution renounces war and bars the use of military force in settling international disputes.

But opposition parties have argued that all of Iraq is a war zone and that the mission violates the constitution. Others say the troops could get drawn into fighting amid deteriorating security.

Ono insisted Sunday that the area around Samawah remains stable.

"There's an impression that security is deteriorating (across Iraq) but there has been no surge in incidents in Samawah," he said. "The overall situation there has not changed."

While the troops are armed, they are supposed to use their weapons only in self-defense, and a Dutch force based nearby has been helping to protect them.

U.S. instructors coach judges for Saddam trial

BY JOE MILICIA
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Some of the Iraqi judges who are being prepared to handle Saddam Hussein's trial haven't handled anything more complicated than a traffic case, says an Ohio law professor who helped train them.

Despite the judges' lack of experience with complex litigation, Case Western Reserve University law professor Michael Scharf said he was impressed by their knowledge.

"They're lower-level court judges and the reason for that is because the higher-level judges were seen as corrupted," said Scharf, who participated in a weekend seminar for the Iraqi Special Tribunal last month in London. He was one of five international law experts selected by the Justice Department for the training.

Some of the Iraqi judges will be prosecutors, others will preside over the case and the remainder will hear any eventual appeals.

"Whether they were low-level or not, they're the smartest people in their country," said Scharf, a former State Department attorney responsible for in-

ternational war crimes issues in the first Bush and Clinton administrations. "The kinds of questions that they would ask would be so nuanced it was far more than I get, for example, from law school students."

Because of security fears, some judges withdrew their names from the tribunal before the final 39 judges were selected.

"These are very courageous people," said Lt. Col. Michael Newton, who teaches at West Point and also participated in the seminar. "They're of course concerned, but that doesn't dissuade them."

Scharf said he told the judges general counsel to the most difficult charge to prove. Saddam also will be the first person tried for the crime of aggression since the Nuremberg trials of Nazi officials following World War II, and the case will define aggression for the International Criminal Court.

"I remember that I was working with very very conscious of the fact that they were going to be making history," Scharf said. "I remember them on several occasions that in 20 years people will be looking back and talking about the cases that they've decided."

Indonesians protest U.S. attack in Fallujah

BY LELY T. DJUHARI
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — About 10,000 Indonesians demonstrated in Jakarta on Sunday against the U.S.-led offensive in Fallujah, in one of the biggest anti-Iraq war protests in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The demonstrators chanted, "Keep the spirit of jihad alive! We will fight back!" and carried banners reading, "How many more Muslims will die because of President George Bush?"

Young men pasted stickers of Bush portrayed as a monkey and as Adolf Hitler on passing cars and buses in front of the U.S. Embassy.

Opinion polls have shown that many Indonesians have turned against the United States because they see the U.S.-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as anti-Muslim.

Anti-U.S. sentiments flared up again when U.S. troops invaded the Iraqi rebel-held city of Fallujah, known as the "city of mosques," early this month in an offensive aimed at re-establishing

government control ahead of January elections.

"My heart burns with anger to see what is happening in Fallujah," Rahmat Hidayat, a 28-year-old teacher, said at the rally. "America must pay!"

Police estimated that 10,000 people took part in the rally — one of the largest in Indonesia against the Iraq war. About 8,000 to 10,000 people joined an anti-war protest last year, while other rallies have been smaller.

Sunday's protest was sponsored by the rapidly growing Islamic Justice and Prosperity party, which seeks to establish Islamic Sharia law.

Indonesia's secular government has taken a strong stance against terrorism. But in recent years, there has been a rise in the popularity of radical, anti-Western Islamic groups.

The country has also been used by the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah to recruit members and launch three major terror attacks in two years, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, most of them foreigners.



Indonesian Muslims march toward the U.S. Embassy during a rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sunday. About 10,000 Muslims held one of the biggest anti-Iraq war protests in the world's most populous Muslim nation against the recent U.S.-led offensive in Fallujah.

Moderate British Muslims fear war makes recruiting youth easier for extremists

BY THOMAS WAGNER
The Associated Press

LONDON — Hizb ut-Tahrir, a radical Muslim group banned in many countries, recently held a seminar here to denounce what it called the "savagery massacre" of Muslims in Fallujah, Iraq, by U.S. forces. In a demonstration in October, it called for the establishment of a caliphate, or Islamic state, in Pakistan and other Muslim countries.

That message turned up in Egypt, where three British men were imprisoned in Cairo for trying to recruit the local outlawed Hizb ut-Tahrir chapter.

Despite the arrest this year of Britain's best-known Islamic radical and police raids that have driven groups such as al-Muhajiroun underground, moderate Muslims are worried that the Iraq war is making it easier than ever for extremists to recruit this country's disillusioned Muslims youths.

"At university, Muslims searching for the truth go to talks about the crises in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kashmir," said Nazir Ahmed, a legislator in the House of Lords and one of Britain's best known Muslim moderates.

"In poor areas, Muslim youths often believe they are second-class citizens and victims of Islamophobia. They can be easy for extremists to ignite on issues such as the U.S. offensive in Fallujah, and its civilian death toll," Ahmed said.

Britain has as many as 2 million Muslims, many of them immigrants or descendants of immigrants, from countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Turkey. A government report said working-age people from ethnic minorities are twice as likely to be unemployed as the overall population.

Ahmed and Brighton-area imam Abdul-

jail Sajid believe those hardships make Muslim youths vulnerable to recruitment by groups such as Hizb ut-Tahrir.

In addition, Britain's lenient asylum laws and strong free-speech protections have long made it a center for Islamic activist groups and Arab publications. Years ago, many of Osama bin Laden's fatwas, or religious edicts, were first publicized in London, earning it the nickname Londonistan.

There are no reliable figures on the number of Muslims who have been recruited by radical groups in Britain. But in April, 2003, two young British Muslims allegedly conducted a suicide bombing at a bar in Tel Aviv, Israel, that killed three people and wounded 50.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government is trying to root out the extremists. Last week, it announced plans to introduce national identity cards for the first time since World War II.

Abu Hamza al-Masri, the radical Muslim cleric and famous London street preacher, was jailed and will be tried for allegedly urging followers to kill non-Muslims.

Muslim moderates are also trying to help. Imams at Britain's 1,000 mosques used a Friday sermon to say that terrorism attacks on innocent civilians are forbidden by Islam.

The Muslim Council of Britain, an umbrella group of moderate Muslims, tried to help win the release of two British hostages: Kenneth Bigsby and Margaret Hassan. Both were killed by insurgents in Iraq, despite the council's efforts in Baghdad.

Al-Muhajiroun, an extremist group that praised the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States as a "magnificent operation," disbanded and closed its official Web site.

But Yasin Rehman, a spokesman at the moderate Council of Mosques in Luton, a



Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri will be tried in Britain for allegedly urging followers to kill non-Muslims. Alex Standish, the editor of Jane's Intelligence Digest, says the main concern in Britain's war on terrorism is unknown cells of Muslim radicals, not public figures such as Abu Hamza.

poor city north of London, said al-Muhajiroun remains an active recruiter under different names. Such groups hold private meetings and study circles, and distribute leaflets at mosques that condemn the death of civilians in the fighting in Fallujah as "genocide."

For Alex Standish, the editor of Jane's Intelligence Digest, the main concern in Britain's war on terrorism is unknown cells of Muslim radicals.

"There are groups and individuals with no known links with existing al-Qaida cells that are being inspired by the bin Laden philosophy and that are replicating al-Qaida's act of terror, but on a freelance basis. That is extremely frightening," Standish said.

He said speeches by bin Laden and his lieutenants, carried by media and Internet sites, may be far more powerful as "recruitment weapons" than the efforts of local radicals.

Boy, 12, killed during protest over detained Afghan woman

BY AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Security guards opened fire Sunday on a crowd demonstrating against the U.S. military's detention of a woman in eastern Afghanistan, killing a boy and injuring a man, officials said.

More than 1,000 people enraged by the woman's overnight detention — a grave dishonor under Afghan tribal traditions — blocked the main road from the eastern city of Jalalabad to the Pakistani border, police and witnesses said. The protesters, who erected burning barricades of tires and wood and stoned vehicles trying to pass, then bore down on the camp of a Pakistani construction company repairing the highway.

"The security guards thought they were coming to attack them," said Amir Khan Lewal, the deputy police chief. "Unfortunately, they opened fire, and one boy was killed and one man was injured."

Police suggested shots were first fired from the crowd and that the guards only shot into the air to disperse the crowd.

However, an Associated Press Television News cameraman who saw the body of the boy in a nearby village said he had suffered a single gunshot wound to the chest. Relatives identified him as 12-year-old Samuallah.

Provincial officials said the woman was among six people detained on Saturday in three raids by U.S. forces, and that she was freed after they complained to the American military as well as the central government in Kabul.

Lewal said the woman was released along with her brothers into the hands of tribal elders from Bati Kot, her home province, from the U.S. base at Jalalabad airport.

Aging bodies adjusting to military duties

Individual Ready Reserve calling back 5,600 GIs

BY SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

The Associated Press

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Chief Warrant Officer Margaret Murray, self-described as "over 50," says her small frame and some old back pain made it difficult to fire her M-16 in a marksmanship refresher course. "With my stature, it was a challenge," said the 4-foot-10, 95-pound, gray-haired personnel specialist from Schenectady, N.Y. "But I can hit the target now."

Murray is one of about 4,400 Army soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve who completed their active-duty service but have been notified they must get back in uniform. Most likely, they are headed for Iraq or Afghanistan.

Ranging in age from 24 to 62, the returning soldiers bring valuable experience to the Army. But their advanced ages, weakened eyes and expanded waistlines mean doing things a bit differently.

"Old is the operative word. I joke my contingent just came from Fort Living Room," said Lt. Col. Douglas Snyder, commander of the training unit here. "They haven't run in two, four, six, maybe 10 years or more. And that goes for push-ups, too."

One lieutenant colonel with bifocals had



AP

Spc. Gwen Howard, left, makes her move Thursday as her teammates Spc. Shane Clinton, and Sgt. Matthew Booth, right, wait their turn during an urban assault training class at Fort Jackson, S.C. They are three of more than 4,400 one-time Army soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve training for duty that will likely take them to Iraq or Afghanistan.

to switch from an M-16 to a 9 mm pistol to qualify. The petite Murray learned to adjust her stance to fire her weapon.

"We don't give up on them," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Calloway, an Army Reserve instructor. "We just give each individual a lot of time — and lots of ammunition."

Still, of the 1,100 ready reservists who have reported so far to Fort Jackson, the nation's largest training base, 325 were released from active duty, many for medical

grounds such as bad knees, back pain or irregular heartbeats.

And not all the reservists have returned peacefully. Last month, the Army reported that more than 800 of the former soldiers had failed to comply with Army orders to report for duty.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve were honorably discharged after finishing their active-duty tours — usually four to six years — but remained in the IRR for the rest of the eight-year commitment

Reserve issues of age, infirmity

■ Reserve call-up: About 4,400 soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve have been notified they must get back in uniform. In all, the Army plans to involuntarily call more than 5,600 reservists back to duty.

■ Not so ready: More than 800 of the former soldiers have failed to comply with orders to report for duty. Hundreds more have been discharged for medical or other reasons.

■ Graying warriors: While the returning soldiers bring valuable experience to the Army, their advanced ages, weakened eyes and expanded waistlines make retraining them tough.

From The Associated Press

they made when they joined the Army.

In all, the Army has said it will involuntarily recall more than 5,600 of those soldiers. The last time these troops were called up was in 1990, when nearly 20,000 were mobilized.

While not expected to join front-line combat units, the returnees will fill jobs urgently needed such as engineers, vehicle maintenance workers and other support staff.

"My hat is off to these people," Calloway said. "They may not have fired a weapon in 12 years, but they know they have to get back there for their own good as well as that of their fellow soldiers."

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IN THE STATES

Storm strands thousands at Nevada airport



Jim Dias, of Livermore, Calif., right, walks through the snow Saturday with his friend, Chantal Vanrooyen of South Africa, on a downtown street in Reno, Nev. A storm system dumped up to 18 inches of snow on the area, leaving thousands of holiday travelers stranded.

Officials blame Reno shutdown on broken FAA equipment

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH
The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Thousands of passengers were grounded during a snowstorm at Reno-Tahoe International Airport on its busiest weekend of the year.

Sixty-nine flights at the airport were canceled or delayed during a seven-hour period Saturday after a malfunction in equipment used to guide pilots when visibility is poor, spokesman Brian Kulpin said.

The instrument landing system is maintained and operated by the Federal Aviation Administration, which fixed the problem after the storm had left up to 6 inches of snow in Reno.

Travelers were urged to contact their airlines before heading to the airport because delays were expected to continue. Kulpin said some passengers might not be able to get a flight from Reno until Tuesday because flights are booked solid Sunday and Monday.

"This has such a ripple effect throughout the system," Kulpin said. "It has impacts on other airports because there are people stranded at other airports."

The Sunday after Thanksgiving traditionally is the airport's busiest day of the year, with about 10,000 passengers using the facility.

Kulpin said airport officials were livid because it was the second time this month the instrument landing system malfunctioned during a storm.

"This is an awful way to treat the flying public and it's all because of the FAA," he said.

FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer in Seattle said a

combination of bad weather and equipment failure caused the FAA to suspend flights in and out of the airport.

The cause of the equipment failure is under investigation, but it appears a heavy buildup of snow on an antenna contributed to it, he said. The storm restricted departures by causing planes to have to undergo deicing, he added.

"Believe me, we understand the people's frustrations and we appreciate their cooperation during the delay," Kenitzer said.

"But safety is our number one priority and safety was never compromised during this time."

The storm also caused problems on the highways.

Authorities reported more than 100 minor traffic accidents in the Reno-Tahoe area, and said a stalled bus on Interstate-80 near Truckee, Calif., backed up east-bound traffic.

The storm knocked down electrical lines in several Northern California counties and left nearly 11,000 customers without power, including 6,700 in Oakland and Berkeley, and 2,100 in Carmel.

Sierra Pacific Power Co. officials reported small, scattered outages affecting hundreds of customers in the Reno-Tahoe area.

In Southern California, the storm brought less than a quarter-inch of rain in most areas but was blamed for one death. A car ran into a tree that was toppled by gusting winds in Lancaster north of Los Angeles, killing the driver and injuring a 16-year-old passenger, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, the driver of a tractor-trailer was killed when he lost control of the vehicle in the rain, plunging over the side of a highway, according to the California Highway Patrol.

"This is an awful way to treat the flying public and it's all because of the FAA."

Brian Kulpin

Reno-Tahoe International Airport spokesman

Social workers comb N.Y. airports to offer homeless help

BY SAM DOLNICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's easy, particularly during the holidays, not to notice the homeless inside New York City's airports.

LaGuardia and Kennedy International are busy places. Over the long Thanksgiving weekend, for example, the terminals at JFK alone were crowded with more than 600,000 travelers coming and going.

The number of homeless at both airports, on the other hand, averages roughly 200 during the day. They go in and out, washing up or watching people. On a cold night, 15 to 20 might stay to sleep.

Those few souls, though, aren't lost on Michael Noel and Howard Cunningham. It's their job as social workers at JFK and LaGuardia to look out for the less fortunate, and help if they can.

The men — along with two other social workers — zigzag through the terminals, talking with security guards, searching for faces that might not necessarily belong. When they run across one, they don't threaten to call police or throw open the door. They offer a ride to a shelter or some information about substance abuse rehabilitation or psychological treatment.

"Instead of sleeping here, we give them options of changing their lives," Noel said.

But their first task, of course, is identifying the homeless, who often "assume the disguise of being travelers with regular luggage on wheels," Noel said. "We unmask their disguise. We know who's been sitting and not moving."

One day last week, a scruffy bearded man named Terrance came ambling out of the bathroom as the social workers walked by. For the past few years, Terrance has made the airport one of his regular haunts.

"It's spacious, away from trouble, things like that," said the 35-year-old New York native, who asked that his last name not be used to protect his privacy. For Terrance, a night at the airport is preferable to most shelters. "Out here if you have something nice and you fall asleep, you still have it when you wake up," he said. "If you go somewhere else, you lose it."

Most of the homeless resist help. Like Terrance, they generally shrug off Noel and Cunningham and eventually leave on their own, heading back to the streets.

In a city with an estimated 37,000 homeless people, success for the airport social workers is in-



cremental. This year, they've placed about 25 people in shelters or programs.

The social workers are with Volunteers of America, a national nonprofit agency contracted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to do outreach at JFK and LaGuardia as well as the bus terminal in midtown Manhattan. Another nonprofit group assists the homeless at Newark Liberty International Airport.

"They keep the homeless population at a minimum and have a humane way of handling these

people who need help, so they don't have a negative impact on the traveling population," said Robbyn Stewart, the manager of customer service at JFK.

Each of the airports has hundreds of acres of space accessible to the public, and Volunteers of America depends on a network of airport employees to serve as its eyes and ears.

Noel fondly remembers many of the down-on-their-luck people he's helped. He tells of the woman who didn't want to go to India to marry a man her family had chosen. She stayed in the air-

port for several weeks, befriending taxi drivers and the cleaning staff, until she came up with a plan. And then there's the man who supposedly has been living at LaGuardia Airport on and off for 21 years.

In a precarious life filled with uncertainty, the airport's homeless know Noel and Cunningham are two constants. Their words may not be heeded, but Terrance says they're appreciated.

"If we don't have our family or our so-called friends, they're there," Terrance said, pointing to Noel and Cunningham. "That goes a long way."

Social workers for Volunteers of America, Michael Noel, left, and Howard Cunningham talk during rounds searching for homeless people at Kennedy Airport in New York.

Senator: Intel bill needs Bush pressure to pass

BY JENNIFER C. KERR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fate of an overhaul of U.S. intelligence agencies rests with President Bush, who must exert more pressure on holdout Republicans if he wants compromise legislation to pass this year, a lead Senate negotiator said Sunday.

"If the president of the United States wants this bill, as commander in chief in the middle of a war, I cannot believe Republicans in the House are going to stop him from getting it," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., on ABC's "This Week."

But two powerful opponents of the deal, GOP Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, are

showing no signs of wavering on a measure intended to put in place recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission.

Hunter, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has expressed concerns that the intelligence realignment could interfere with the military chain of command.

Sensenbrenner, head of the House Judiciary Committee, wants the bill to deal with illegal immigration.

The chairman of the Sept. 11 commission, Thomas Kean, said separate legislation, debated at a later time, could address those concerns.

Kean, a former Republican governor from New Jersey, joined with Lieberman in urging Bush to press harder for passage.

With the overhaul stalled after months of negotiations, the crucial question "is whether it will pass now or after a second attack," Kean said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The legislation passed the Senate almost unanimously, but House Speaker Dennis Hastert pulled the bill from consideration following objections from Hunter and Sensenbrenner just before the House adjourned for Thanksgiving.

If lawmakers fail to pass an overhaul this year, they will have to start from scratch next year. With a new Congress taking office in January, bills that failed to pass in the current session expire and new lawmakers and committee leaders would have to consider any new legislation.

Rice confirmation hearings delayed

WASHINGTON — At the White House's request, confirmation hearings for Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state will not begin until Congress reconvenes in January, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday.

When President Bush nominated his national security adviser to replace Colin Powell at the State Department, Sen. Richard Lugar said he would try to

bring his committee together in the first week of December to begin the Senate confirmation process.

He predicted Rice's nomination will draw strong support in the Senate and will have no difficulty being approved.

Lugar did not say why the White House considered early hearings inappropriate. The resignation of the 67-year-old Powell was presented as part of an overhaul of Bush's cabinet for his second term.

From The Associated Press

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The Athos I tanker is shown Saturday near Paulsboro, N.J. The tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of heavy crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey on Friday.

Tanker spills crude oil in Delaware River

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, creating a 20-mile-long slick that killed dozens of birds and threatened other wildlife, federal officials said Saturday.

Private contractors were called in to skim oil from the surface of the water and place thousands of feet of boom to contain the floating slick.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said 50 birds were dead from the spill and 300 others were affected; fish also were threatened. A stretch of the busy river was closed to commercial and rec-

reational traffic while the spill was being cleaned up.

Two tugboats were guiding the ship to a pier Friday night when a tugboat skipper noticed the spill, said Coast Guard Capt. Jonathan Sarubb, officer in charge of the Port of Philadelphia.

The crew notified the Coast Guard and began transferring oil from the leaking tank to another tank on board. The leak was stopped within an hour.

The cause of the spill was still under investigation, Sarubb said.

The tanker, the Athos I, registered in the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, was carrying 325,000 barrels of oil from Venezuela, said Jim Lawrence, a spokesman for the vessel's owner, Greek shipping company Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA.

Md. governor bans officials from speaking to reporters

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland's governor says his order that state officials stop speaking with two reporters for The Baltimore Sun was "meant to have a chilling effect" on two writers he believes "have no credibility."

The ban was intended to set a benchmark for the minimum level of accuracy expected of newspaper coverage of his administration, Gov. Robert Ehrlich said in an interview on WBAL radio.

"At what point does a monopoly newspaper abuse its privilege, its First Amendment privilege, in making things up, making quotes up, making context up?" the first-term Republican governor said Friday. "I just said this is our minimum benchmark."

Sun attorney Stephanie Abrutyn said the newspaper disagrees with Ehrlich's description of the two reporters' credibility and called his explanation of the ban "troubling."

On Nov. 18, the governor's press office sent a memo to all state public information officers

ordering that no one in the executive department and state agencies speak to the Sun's Bureau Chief David Nitkin or columnist Michael Olesker, noting two instances in which the governor's staff believed Nitkin and Olesker were unfair in their coverage.

In a column, Olesker wrote that the governor's communications director, Paul Schurick, struggled "mightily to keep a straight face" at a hearing when saying that political gain was "not a consideration" in making state tourism commercials that feature the governor.

The governor's staff complained that Olesker didn't attend the hearing and couldn't have known the expression on Schurick's face.

Olesker said the reference was intended to be read metaphorically, not literally.

The second complaint involved a map the Sun published of state land the Ehrlich administration was considering selling. The map incorrectly highlighted all 450,000 acres of state-owned preservation land. A correction ran in the next day's newspaper.

OPINION

War defined by choices, not moral absolutes

BY FRANK PIERSON

How news about war comes to the home front.

A group of Marines kill a wounded and unarmed Iraqi and walk away talking tough. I flash back to another war: World War II, New Guinea, 1944, leading a patrol behind Japanese lines, climbing out of the steaming coastal jungle at a South Pacific paradise named Aitape toward the snow-capped Owen Stanley mountains.

The trail is narrow, twisting up mud-slick hills so steep we reach for roots to pull ourselves up. I carry a 60-pound pack and a light carbine for this patrol. There have been no sightings of Japanese troops or activity for the three days we have been looking for them.

The radio isn't working. It pours down tropical rain every night, but last night we found a friendly native village where we slept under huts raised on poles.

The Army combat handbook for reconnaissance patrols makes it clear that if we are seen by either combatants or noncombatants we are to kill them; our safety depends on it. If the enemy were told we were in the area, it would, at the least, compromise our information and, at worst, lead them to hunt us down and kill us.

We know the people in the village where we spent the night hate the Japanese troops; we trusted them not to betray us. So we cautiously ate our K rations in front of them and shared our high-energy chocolate bars with their children.

Perhaps we should have hidden ourselves from them, for their protection as well as our own. But we didn't. In the morning we woke up and left them and sweated through the next leg of the patrol.

Now our Piper Cub spotter plane flies over us and drops new batteries for the radio and more K rations. The Japanese — if there are any — know where we are now. After 40 miles and three days of sweating through 90-degree heat and almost 100 percent humidity, they can smell us a mile away.

Then we see the yellowish-tan uniform by the waterfall. It is an officer. He is curled asleep on his side by the falls, his head on his backpack, his rifle by his side. At first I think he has died there.

But we freeze, staring at him, and we see the faintest movement of breath. For what seems an eternity we stand like statues, barely breathing ourselves. I think: Why didn't he hear us coming? The waterfall rushing beside him has screened out our footfalls. I look back — the guys are all staring at him, nobody moving. We can't be sure he hasn't heard us and is faking sleep.

This is our first combat tour. We haven't yet killed anyone, we haven't seen death or dead bodies. He is the first Japanese we have seen.

This is also an intelligence mission. Japanese prisoners are extremely rare and highly prized for what information they might give about the true condition of their forces. But we are only three men, and our mission is to go by stealth deep into the interior of the island. To move with a prisoner for another week of cutting through jungle brush, wading in hip-deep swamps, climbing when we got to the mountains, would be impossible.

To extinguish that life is to end a uni-

verse. A sense of my own death sweeps through me, a darkness reaching out to the end of time while we have stood here for seconds, and all this hurricane of thought and feeling roars in my head.

I think, how we wake him up, so he will know what is happening to him when we shoot him! No, let it happen so he slips unaware from his little sleep into eternal darkness.

I hand signal to my second behind me. He very quietly raises his carbine, silently releases the safety and fires a single shot. The Japanese officer's body jumps



with the impact; he turns, rolls, and for one single second his eyes open wide in astonishment as he sees us. A second shot throws him on his back, his legs thrash then slow to twitching and then lie still. The jungle goes silent.

We whip around, looking, listening for sounds of movement, answering shots. Blood threads crimson into the waterfall. Nothing.

I suddenly aware my heart is pounding, my chest gasping for air, I have not breathed for so long. Then bird songs. Breeze in the tree canopy high above. Far away a monkey complains. Behind me, the guys slump, leaning back against their packs. They smoke. The Japanese officer's face is peaceful but slewed away from the head wound.

In the moments that followed, I stripped his insignia from his uniform, noted that his weapon is rusted, dirty, that his uniform was muddy, his boots worn and unpolished, he was skeletally thin. He had been surviving alone for some time. I pulled a

sweat-soaked wallet from his backpack. His name and rank and unit. Photographs. A young and pretty wife. A child, a boy maybe 5 or 6. An infant. A life. In one picture: trees, a neat park-like setting, peace. A sadness overcame me, and perhaps it has never left me.

I turned away and left him sleeping by his waterfall.

I've thought of him often in the nearly 60 years since. In one sense, he and the young wife and children live on in my memory, always young, always smiling into a future they could not know. They



ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTINO/Stars and Stripes

will be alive and not rest until I am gone.

A few days later, when we came back down the mountain past the waterfall, he was gone, probably dragged away and his bones scattered by wild animals, like everything else in that jungle reduced to bare bones in days or even hours. His rifle and backpack were gone, incidental bounty of war for the native hunters. All of that world is gone. Even the lovely cove of the village of Aitape was washed away in a tidal wave some years ago.

It was our job to hunt down and kill each other; it was also our responsibility to ourselves as humans to hold tight to a sense of honor, a sense of respect for the enemy soldier that is the root of rules of war and the

Geneva Conventions.

The officer was a soldier, and if I hope to have mercy when it is possible in the savagery of war, and circumstances permit, I owe him respect as an equal.

In World War II there was rightful outrage at the mass executions of our troops captured by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge. There is no doubt that the rage of battle drives soldiers on both sides to inhuman acts, massacres, casual executions like that of those Marines in Fallujah. War is hell, but it is not an excuse to descend into savagery.

That war is hell is a challenge — the highest and most difficult challenge is to behave well in the face of everything that drives us toward revenge, retribution, toward the worst in ourselves. War demands that we be and act at our best and most noble or else all is lost, and we become our very worst. To maintain one's moral balance in the desperation and confusion of combat is the measure of military discipline, of humanity, of maturity.

The outrages at Abu Ghraib are not the answer to the lynching of the Americans on that bridge in Fallujah. And though I differ with President Bush on almost everything else, the president responded to the news from Abu Ghraib with righteous anger and moral passion when he said, "This is not America. This does not represent our values."

It was his finest hour, the words of a worthy leader and a commander of men and women in war.

I don't know that our killing, a minor incident in a war that killed tens of millions, represents any summit of good behavior.

Perhaps because it was our first kill of many to come we were especially aware of the enormity of taking a life. We were not yet numb to the carnage. Did we behave well? We followed our orders. We cared. And what we took from that officer I carry with me forever.

I won't judge those trash-talking Marines. I only hope they remember that bloody, defeated man they reduced to a corpse as something more than meaningless residue of battle. Or the battle itself is meaningless.

Frank Pierson wrote "Cat Ballou," "Cool Hand Luke" and "Dog Day Afternoon," among other films, and is president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Missing pilot found in Alaska after 5 days

BY RACHEL D'ORO

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A pilot missing since Monday was found alive Saturday afternoon in a remote southern Alaska bay, in good shape and upbeat spirits, the Alaska National Guard said.

Michael Holman was spotted by Coast Guard crew members in a C-130 transport plane during a training exercise near Homer,

said Maj. Chris Kobi, with the National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center. The crew picked up a distress call the 46-year-old pilot made through his hand-held marine band radio.

The crew was able to see a bonfire Holman built at English Bay, about 15 miles from Seldovia. He was outside the 4,000-square-mile area where searchers, hindered by wind, snow, rain and fog, had been looking for him.

Holman told the crew he had plenty of food, water and other provisions and was staying inside a cabin. Wind and approaching darkness prevented rescuers from picking Holman up Saturday, the National Guard planned to take him to Anchorage on Sunday.

"I've been saying all along we had to be optimistic," Kobi said. "So many of these cases have very, very strange outcomes, you

just can't write them off."

Since Holman, of Wasilla, has not been personally interviewed, Guard officials said details remained sketchy about the chain of events since he flew out from Palmer on Monday, headed for Seldovia.

They weren't sure about the fate of his Maule ML-7 aircraft, though additional reports said that for some reason the plane washed out or was destroyed,

Kobi said.

Searchers always held out hope for Holman, an experienced pilot who has flown for United Airlines and who had survival gear on board.

"Once again, fact is better than fiction," National Guard Maj. Mike Haller said. "Another Alaskan walks away from a serious incident and survives to see his family and hug them again another day."

'Grinch' stands alone

Dispute cancels annual holiday lawn display

BY RACHEL KONRAD

The Associated Press

MONTE SERENO, Calif. — For more than 20 years, Alan and Bonnie Aerts transformed their Silicon Valley home into a Christmas wonderland, complete with surfing Santa, jumbo candy canes and a carol-singing chorus of mannequins.

Visitors loved it. Last year, after NBC's "Weekend Today" featured the \$150,000 display of custom-designed props, more than 1,500 cars prowled the Aerts' cul-de-sac in this upscale San Jose suburb each night.

This year, though, the merry menagerie stayed indoors. Instead, on the manicured lawn outside the couple's Tudor mansion stands a single display: a 10-foot-tall Grinch with green fuzz, rotting teeth and beet-red eyeballs.

The Aerts erected the snarling giant to protest the couple across the street — 16-year residents Le and Susan Nguyen, who initiated complaints to city officials that the display was turning the quiet neighborhood into a nightmare.

Alan Aerts, who makes sure the Grinch's spindly finger points directly to the Nguyens' house, says the complaints killed the exhibit. They also violated the Christmas spirit, he said.

"When I grew up, people decorated everything — it was wonderful to be a kid," said the 48-year-old soft drink distributor and philanthropist. "If you can't even put up a display these days,

what kind of people have we become?"

The Nguyens say that even after the Aerts hired a security guard to help direct traffic, the commotion kept them from having friends over for their own lower-key celebrations.

"We wake up to Christmas for about 45 days of the year," said Le Nguyen, 35. "You ever seen the movie 'Groundhog Day'? It's just like that."

The exhibition's death knell came last year, when the Nguyens collected 90 signatures of protest from residents, and the city council voted to require a permit for any exhibit lasting longer than three days.

Mayor Erin Garner voted against it, saying he thought the Aerts provided a community service.

"It will be a crying shame if [Alan] doesn't put his holiday lights up this year," he told the San Jose Mercury News.

After studying the application process, the Aerts decided the usual display wasn't worth the hassle.

So Alan Aerts, a 6-foot-5 amateur body builder, commissioned the \$2,500 motorized Grinch statue, which waves its arms and emits steam as a raspy tenor belts out, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

Susan Nguyen, 52, is unmoved. "It was oppressive," she said. "Maybe not if you just spent 10 minutes admiring it from your car, but if you lived next door, it was definitely oppressive."



Kiki, a western lowland gorilla, cradles her 3-day old baby at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston on Saturday. The baby, fathered by zoo resident Kitembe, hasn't been named yet because it can take a couple of months before the gender of a baby gorilla can be determined.

Boston Zoo debuts baby gorilla

BY THEO EMERY

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Dozens of people crowded into the Franklin Park Zoo's indoor "tropical forest" on Saturday for the debut of its newest celebrity resident: a tiny, 3-day-old, western lowland gorilla.

Kiki the gorilla ambled from her nighttime quarters with her 4-pound baby tucked under her arm, as the crowds rushed from

window to window to follow her movements. She eventually settled into a bed of straw, nibbling carrots, before laying down for a nap with the baby cradled in her arm.

The baby does not have a name yet. Its gender will not be known for several months until zoo officials can examine it without upsetting Kiki, said John Linehan, the zoo's president and CEO.

"Kiki has just hugged onto this

baby since it was born. Since the moment we saw it, we haven't seen her put it down. She's protective of it, she holds it close, sometimes she stays away from us. She just seems to be reveling in motherhood," Linehan said.

Zoos have become adept at successfully breeding captive gorillas. Linehan said the zoo's newest gorilla will be an important learning experience for the six other gorillas at the facility, and for visiting children who can follow the primate's progress.



The Grinch in Alan Aerts' front lawn in Monte Sereno, Calif., points toward the neighbors who complained about his Christmas display.

Shoppers treated after pepper spray incident

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Police were reviewing video camera footage to find out who discharged pepper spray inside an elevator at Toys R Us' crowded flagship store, sending at least three people to the hospital, authorities said.

Saturday afternoon's incident also left others with irritated eyes at the toy chain's Times Square store during the busy shopping weekend.

"I immediately could not

breathe," Teresa Cassello told WNBC.

"I said 'I have to get out of here 'cause I'm choking,' but there were so many people behind me that I couldn't get out."

It was unclear how many shoppers were affected. Firefighter Kevin Nolan said five people were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital and 17 others were treated at the scene or refused medical attention. Police said three people were taken to St. Vincent's and

nine refused medical attention.

Two people were released from the hospital within hours while one remained for further treatment, hospital officials said.

Susan McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for Toys R Us, said the incident was under investigation but declined to elaborate. "We are cooperating fully with the police," she said.

The 110,000-square-foot store, which opened in 2001, features an 80-foot indoor Ferris wheel.

IN THE WORLD

Diplomats: Iran agrees to full nuclear freeze

By GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran agreed Sunday not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities that can yield weapons-grade uranium, in what diplomats described as an apparent about-face to avoid possible U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Diplomats, from the European Union and elsewhere, said the commitment, sent by letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, appeared to fulfill demands that Tehran include centrifuges in its total suspension of uranium-enrichment programs.

If it does, that would end a dispute that had threatened to escalate into possible refusal of Iran to the U.N. Security Council for defying the agency.

An official from one of the countries on the 35-nation IAEA board was cautious,

Nation drops demand to exclude centrifuges, which could yield weapons-grade uranium

saying Iran in the past had insisted that "testing" centrifuges meant introducing uranium gas into them for enrichment. France, Germany and Britain — which worked out the Nov. 7 deal with Iran on suspension — say the freeze prohibits the Iranians running the centrifuges for any purpose.

A senior diplomat with nuclear expertise told The Associated Press the Iranian pledge appeared to contain no pitfalls and seemed to meet the European demands for full suspension.

But came with strings attached — a demand that France, Germany and Britain further water down the language of a draft resolution they wrote for adoption by the

board of the IAEA on ways of policing the suspension, he said.

The letter was received by the IAEA — the U.N. nuclear agency — less than a day before its board was scheduled to reconvene in Vienna amid a building crisis on the issue of enrichment suspension.

The meeting was adjourned in disarray Friday. The pause was meant to give time for the Iranian government to approve a total freeze of its program, which can produce both low-grade nuclear fuel and weapons-grade material for the core of nuclear warheads.

Delegates were also to decide on further steps in policing Tehran's nuclear activities.

The dispute about what constituted full suspension had dominated the meeting.

Iranian officials had suggested the issue was not up for debate until hours before details emerged of their letter to the agency.

"Referral to the U.N. Security Council would not be the end of the world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters in Tehran earlier Sunday — alluding to the possibility that the board would ask for Security Council involvement unless Iran accepted a total suspension that included the centrifuges.

The Europeans say the deal committed Iran to full suspension of enrichment and all related activities — at least while the two sides discuss a pact meant to provide Iran with EU technical and economic aid and other concessions.

But Iran came to Thursday's opening day of the IAEA meeting with demands that it be allowed to run the 20 centrifuges — which can spin gas into enriched uranium — for research purposes.

Colombia: Rebels talked of targeting Bush on visit

By ANDREW SELSKY
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's main rebel group asked followers to mount an assassination attempt against President Bush during his visit to Colombia last week, Defense Minister Jorge Uribe said. There was no evidence Saturday that rebels even tried to organize such an attack.



Bush

Uribe told reporters late Friday that informants said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, told followers to attack Bush during his four-hour visit in the seaside city of Cartagena last Monday, where he met with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

The defense minister, who is now on relation to the president, said se-

curity forces were on full alert during the visit. About 15,000 Colombian troops and police, along with U.S. troops and Secret Service agents provided security. There was no indication Bush's life was ever in danger.

Uribe did not say where the informants had heard about the purported order to attack Bush.

The Secret Service did not comment on security details, as is its policy.

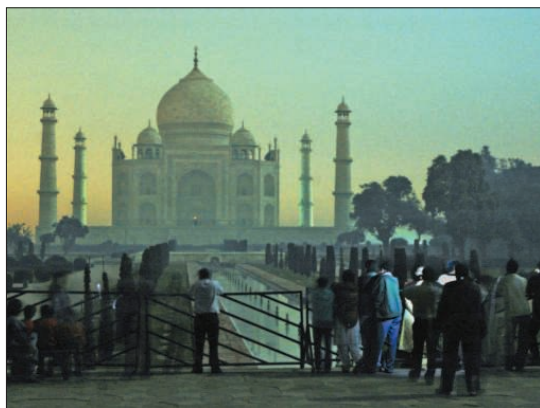
"We have full confidence in the fine work of the Secret Service and their work with security officials on the ground when the President travels," White House spokesman Jim Murrell said Saturday.

The FARC has declared U.S. troops in Colombia military targets.

The troops are training local forces and providing logistics and planning assistance for military operations against the rebels.

However, the rebels never publicly declared Bush a target during his first-ever visit as president to Colombia.

Bush visited Colombia after attending a summit in Chile.



Tourists view the Taj Mahal at night in Agra, India. The Taj Mahal was opened for the first time in 20 years to nighttime tourists after the government had banned nighttime visits in 1984 out of fears that it could be targeted by Sikh separatists.

Taj Mahal reopens to nighttime visitors

By MICHAEL MORAIN
The Associated Press

AGRA, India — The moonlit view through the arched gateway, entrance to what may be the world's greatest monument to love, was enough to silence even the chattiest visitor.

On Saturday night, when the Taj Mahal was opened for the first time in 20 years to nighttime tourists, there was plenty of silence.

"It was really beautiful," said Rita Sinha, a visitor from the northern Indian city of Lucknow. "There was a sense of peace and rest."

Night visits to the 17th-century marble mausoleum were banned by the government in 1984 out of fears that it could be targeted by

Sikh separatists. Though the Sikh militant movement was crushed long ago, it was only Thursday that a Supreme Court ruling finally reopened the grounds — built by a long-dead ruler in memory of his wife — to tourists after dark.

For five nights each month, around the time of the full moon, visitors will be allowed inside the perimeter wall to see the Taj — albeit from a special platform set up about 300 yards away from the actual building.

Security remains tight, unsurprisingly for a building that is one of the most famous on the planet and the best-known symbol of India. Some 225 police officers guarded the site and visitors had to pass through two separate

checkpoints with x-rays and body searches.

Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the Taj Mahal to memorialize his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died from complications arising from the birth of their fourteenth child. The monument, which took more than 20,000 laborers and 22 years to complete, from 1632 to 1654, marked its 350th anniversary earlier this year.

The monument has seen its share of problems lately. Air pollution has discolored its famous white marble domes over the past decade, and a former state politician nearly managed to get a shopping complex built just a couple hundred yards away last year — before a public outcry ended those plans.

Outgoing Ukrainian president calls for end to election protests in streets

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — President Leonid Kuchma called on opposition demonstrators to end their four-day blockade of government buildings Sunday, saying compromise was needed to solve the political crisis that has engulfed Ukraine since its disputed presidential vote.

Representatives of the rival presidential candidates prepared to meet at the negotiating table again Sunday, a day after the opposition's hopes for a new vote got a boost from national lawmakers, who called the election invalid.

Western-leaning opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko, who claims he was cheated out of victory in the Nov. 21 run-off election, is demanding a new vote. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators have jammed downtown Kiev for a week to support him.

Saturday's declaration by parliament — approved by 255 of the 429 legislators present — was not legally binding, but it was a clear demonstration of rising dissatisfaction with an election international observers said was marred by fraud.

Cell-phone sting

VA CULPEPER — One phone call got Kenneth Settle Jr. and his cousin in both sent to jail.

The two were arrested when police said they phoned a drug dealer to place an order during a police drug sting operation.

When the suspected drug dealer's cell phone rang during the Blue Ridge Drug Task Force sting, a Culpeper town police investigator answered.

The caller said he wanted to buy \$50 worth of crack cocaine, according to Detective Troy Steele. The man gave his location and a description of the vehicle he was driving.

Two officers drove to the agreed meeting spot in the Southgate Shopping Center, identified the vehicle and found 21-year-old Settle and his 22-year-old cousin, Steven Settle, inside, Steele said.

The alleged drug dealer's cell phone was the last number called on a cell phone discovered in the vehicle, police said.

The Settles were both charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine.

Agency head to retire

MO JEFFERSON CITY — The head of Missouri's Emergency Management Agency said he'll retire at the end of the year. Jerry Uhlmann has run the agency for almost 12 years after serving 32 years in the Missouri National Guard. Under his watch, the agency has responded to the state's largest floods, most costly winter storms and the most destructive series of tornadoes.

Hotel shuts down

NE NORTH PLATTE — The landmark Hotel Pawnee is scheduled to close Dec. 31, forcing 65 special-needs residents to find a new place to live. After decades as a prestigious hotel, the building was converted into a retirement home. For the last eight years it had housed people with mental illness or special needs. Owner Bob Parsons says the hotel loses about \$20,000 a month.

Island access limited

GA SEA ISLAND — The Sea Island Causeway will soon be closed to all but the wealthy residents who live there. The Glynn County commission voted to give up county ownership to all the roads on Sea Island and the formerly public causeway after residents said they aren't safe because of their wealth. The Sea Island Co. plans to put up a gate blocking access to the island.

Detention centers cited

NJ TRENTON — The state is warehousing nonviolent children and teens in overcrowded detention centers because there's nowhere else to place them, a study by the state Office of the Child Advocate says. The study calls for increased mental illness screening and other services. It says youths in the system who have serious emotional problems have inadequate access to mental health care.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Firefighters rehired

CA SACRAMENTO — Most of the firefighters who were to be fired for drinking on duty, giving joy rides and attending a porn-star costume ball will return to work, Fire Chief Julius "Joe" Cherry said.

Five of the nine firefighters who were sent letters of termination signed a "last chance contract" stipulating that they have to meet Fire Department standards for the next five years or they will be terminated without right to appeal.

"When we looked at all nine of them, took a balanced approach and listened to their arguments, we looked at five of them as salvageable employees," Cherry said.

Turkeys eat well

CT VOLUNTOWN — Two turkeys, spared from becoming dinner, have been treated to an early Thanksgiving feast.

The turkeys, named Dandelion and Sage, arrived at Michele and Charles Nash's six-acre farm. The couple is adopting them after they were left in a box at the front gate of a shelter that aims to keep turkeys off the holiday dinner table.

Upon arrival, the turkeys dined on a platter of salad greens and fresh cranberries, a pumpkin pie and baked winter squash.



In the nick of time

Maysville Police Officer Larry Farris, right, watches as Charlie Traxe, second left, and his son, Drew, second left, upright the clock that marks the location of their store, Traxe's Jewelers, in downtown Maysville, Ky.

The 6-month-old turkeys were dropped off at Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, N.Y., five months ago. Kate Walker, a coordinator who brought the turkeys to the Nash farm, said she believes they were never destined to survive past Nov. 25.

"We know they came from a factory farm because their beaks are cut," she said.

The turkeys should fear no more. Michele Nash and her husband have been vegetarians for the past three years, but still enjoy much of the traditional Thanksgiving feast, she said.

"Everything," she said, "but the turkey."

Rings found on beach

GA ATLANTA — Hurricanes that struck the Florida coast this year churned up more than sand along Daytona Beach. They also yielded gold — rings of gold 40 years old.

Two people are richer for it, after their high school class rings from the 1960s were found by Laurie Sprigg, a modern-day prospector using a metal detector.

Sprigg turned over Larry Mitchell's 1964 Clarkston High School ring, lost on spring break that year. "It was just a real big shock for me. That's 40 years. You just don't expect something to turn up," Mitchell said.

On a separate outing, Sprigg found a 1963 ring from Christian County High School, which she traced to Kentucky and then to Beth Townsend.

Townsend said she wasn't even aware that her ring had been lost in Florida, where she also had been on spring break.

Townsend, who works at a health food store and does counseling at her church, was struck by the fact that it took the storms to shift enough sand around that the ring was found.

"In counseling, we always say that in a crisis things get shifted. That happens in the natural world, too," she said.

Fruit fight

ME ROCKLAND — Fewer than 200 blueberry growers have filed claims for a share of a \$5 million settlement in a landmark price-fixing lawsuit.

As many as 800 growers could have been damaged by the price-fixing, according to the growers' attorneys.

"The pool of growers gets smaller once you peel off those who opted out of the suit in the beginning," said attorney William Robitsek. "Then there are growers who are still scared to death to be identified with this lawsuit, because the list of payouts will be published."

The number of claims — 176 statewide — was disclosed Tuesday by Justice Joseph Jabars. The 4-year-old case is nearing an end after Allen's Blueberry Freezer of Ellsworth agreed to pay \$1 million as its share of the settlement.

Growers who can show how many pounds of fruit they sold in each of the seasons between 1996 and 1999 have until Dec. 23 to join the lawsuit.



Fashion prepping

Beth Bennett, an employee of the Yunkers store in Dubuque, Iowa, dresses a store mannequin during one of the biggest shopping days of the year.



Winter wonderland

The aspens show off their new coat of white after a snowstorm dropped 14 inches of snow on Steamboat Ski Resort in Colorado.



Music to my ears

Catie Mungie, 11, of Marguard, Mo., practices her skills in front of a display of Monarch accordions at the Marriott Hotel in downtown St. Louis, where the St. Louis Metro Polka Club was holding its 15th annual Thanksgiving Weekend dance festival.



Sunset chores Wendell Pellegrin uses the last minutes of sunlight to mow the grass in the median of Civic Center Boulevard in Houma, La.



A bright scene Allen Neuman watches the lightning show from a balcony in Fort Smith, Ark., as storms move through the area.



Colorful illumination With the twist of the ring of a zoom lens at a slow shutter speed, the holiday lights that illuminate the Denver City/County Building streak through the night sky, as the annual lighting display was turned on for the first time this season in the Mile High City.



Practice makes perfect Dan Ryan with his son, Cade, 4, from Northern Illinois, ski at Granite Peak Ski Area at Rib Mountain in Wausau, Wis.

High-tech hospital

AL BIRMINGHAM — Baptist Health System, which once tried to stop HealthSouth Corp. from constructing a high-tech hospital in metro Birmingham, has joined with Sanford University in talks about purchasing the unfinished building. HealthSouth will have spent about \$190 million by the end of the year on the hospital, according to earlier estimates. Finishing the hospital will cost at least \$100 million more.

Rare foxes rebound

CA AVALON — A unique subspecies of fox that is about the size of a house cat is back from the brink of extinction and can survive on its own because of a captive breeding program, the head of a nonprofit nature group said.

With the release of the remaining foxes in the coming weeks, the program on Santa Catalina Island will end, said Ann Muscat of the Catalina Island Conservancy.

The conservancy, which manages most of the island, released five pups and four adult foxes Tuesday. The animals quickly scampered into the scrub-covered hills on the eastern end of Catalina.

There are now 300 of the foxes that will be monitored to make sure they don't again drop to a critical level, Muscat said. The Santa Catalina fox was nearly wiped out by an outbreak of canine distemper virus, causing the population to drop from 1,300 in the 1990s to just 100 four years ago.

Countersuit filed

NY NEW YORK — A woman who was sued by American Express over an alleged scam where she posed as a Saudi princess to steal thousands has countersued the company, saying she was mentally incompetent when she opened her account and the company should have known it.

The countersuit was filed by Antoinette Millard, 40, free on \$100,000 bail and awaiting trial on attempted grand larceny charges for alleged scams carried out while she posed as a Saudi Arabian princess and a Victoria's Secret model. She was neither.

Millard, a former vice president at the Brown Brothers Harriman investment bank, countersued for \$2 million in Manhattan's State Supreme Court after Amex obtained a court order of attachment freezing more than \$951,000 of her assets for unpaid charges.

The larceny charges against Millard stem from her allegedly trying to steal \$262,000 from an insurance company by falsely reporting that her jewelry had been stolen, the Manhattan district attorney's office said.

Fatal mistake

WA SEATTLE — A woman who underwent surgery for a brain aneurysm died after she was mistakenly injected with an antiseptic solution instead of a harmless X-ray marker dye, hospital officials say.

Mary McClinton, 69, had the operation Nov. 4 at Virginia Mason Medical Center and died Tuesday.

At the end of McClinton's operation, a technician was supposed to inject the dye into a leg artery. Instead, the syringe was filled with chlorhexidine, a highly toxic solu-

tion used to clean the skin, hospital quality chief Dr. Robert Caplan said. The solution "caused widespread damage to the organs of her body," Caplan said.

The hospital had recently switched from a brown iodine antiseptic to a colorless version. The marker dye also is clear, and the syringe was filled from an unlabeled cup containing the antiseptic.

Caplan said the cup of antiseptic has since been replaced with a swab on a stick.

Everyone involved in the mistake was removed from duty and retrained, along with the entire medical staff, officials said. The names of the technician and others involved were not released.

Ex-con on book tour

LA BATON ROUGE — Nearly two years after he served a six-month prison sentence, former Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown has completed a book chronicling the case that put him behind bars.

A federal jury convicted Brown for lying to an FBI agent about the liquidation of a failed insurance company. Brown, who has maintained his innocence, said he'll start a book tour next week in Shreveport.

Attacker sentenced

IL WAUKEGAN — A woman pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted murder and was sentenced to 30 years for her role in a sledgehammer attack that nearly killed her ex-husband and his new wife.

Sandra Rogers, 48, was accused of planning the May 2 attack with an 18-year-old acquaintance, Jonathan McMeekin, as she fought with her ex-husband for custody of their daughter, prosecutors said.

McMeekin, who also pleaded guilty to attempted murder, told police he went along with the plan because he wanted to resume dating Rogers' 14-year-old daughter. He said he went with Rogers the night of the attack, but she beat the couple with the hammer while they slept. McMeekin could face 12 to 35 years in prison.

Drug bust

NY MOREHEAD — A drug bust at Morehead State University resulted in 21 warrants issued for students. The law enforcement director for the anti-drug task force Operation UNITE says undercover narcotics officers worked on the case for about two months. He says they purchased marijuana and prescription drugs from the students who were arrested.

Cameras in patrol cars

AZ PHOENIX — Highway Patrol cars are being equipped with video cameras to record traffic stops and help settle a class-action lawsuit accusing the state Department of Public Safety of racial profiling. The cameras are part of a proposed settlement expected to be submitted to a federal judge for approval soon, DPS officials and a lawyer for the plaintiffs said. Approval would end a 3-year-old case that originated with traffic stops made along interstate highways in Cocoon County.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Linney is sexy in her 'own right'

BY JOE NEUMAIER

New York Daily News

Laura Linney is having a very sexy season. First, there was "P.S.," where she made a steamy impression, particularly in a sex scene where she remained fully clothed.

Now comes "Kinsey," in which she plays the drab wife of the legendary — and somewhat notorious — sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, played by Liam Neeson.

This is not the way most Hollywood actresses use their sensuality on screen, but Linney is not most Hollywood actresses. "I've always thought that I'm sexy in my own right, but not in a way that people thought was bankable," says the 40-year-old actress.

"I've outgrown that time for actors when that pressure is on you, or when people look at you with disappointment, because you're not as sexy as they'd like you to be — or you're sexy in a different way, which is how I look at it."

"Sexiness is undefinable, and a lot of it is being at ease with who you are and where you are in life."

Where Linney is now is amid a string of plump roles, in movies like "Mystic River" and "Love Actually" that followed her breakout performance in "You Can Count on Me," that 2000 indie movie brought her an Academy Award nomination for best actress. Now "Kinsey" is generating more Oscar buzz.

"This movie is an excellent reminder of our country's complex relationship to sexuality," she says. "It shows how sex is a really powerful thing and can be used to heal or hurt. It's an endlessly fascinating

topic."

Though Kinsey's wife, Clara McMillen, seemed like a buttoned-up faculty spouse, she was in fact an integral part of her husband's research, which involved wife-swapping — by Kinsey himself and by his staff (played in the movie by Peter Sarsgaard, Timothy Hutton and Chris O'Donnell). "Playing Clara made me think about all sorts of stuff," says Linney.

"I never really thought about how sex flavors a life, how it creates fear or can release you. It's about the choices you make in life, who you spend time with, what are you attracted to and why, and you can change that. Doing this movie, I'm sure, has affected my relationships, and for the better."

Linney grew up in Manhattan, the daughter of playwright Romulus Linney. Her parents divorced when she was a child, but Linney learned about theater from her father before studying acting at Juilliard.

She has continued to do theater, including Broadway roles in "Uncle Vanya" in 2000 and "The Crucible" in 2002, co-starring Neeson. Linney's film career started slowly, as she learned the craft of performing before a camera.

"I was just intimidated," Linney says. "I didn't know anything about film acting. I spent many years studying how to act on stage, and I knew it wasn't the same thing. So I was very fortunate that I had small parts in movies that let me feel out the terrain."

She co-starred in the miniseries "Tales of the City" in 1993, then starred opposite Richard Gere in "Primal Fear" and Jim Carrey in "The Truman Show."

Then came "You Can Count on Me."

"That movie was a treat, because there were no scary Hollywood studio guys asking, 'Is the chick sexy enough?'" she says. "Nobody talked about if my hair was sexy enough. It was all about the work."

People have definitely been talking about how sexy Linney is in "P.S.," especially that one lovemaking scene.

"It's very sensual, and it makes some people uncomfortable," she says. "It's really intense in its eroticism. The camera focuses mainly on our faces, and it's so intimate."

In sharp contrast, Linney had to make a determined effort, including makeup and costumes, to downplay her natural attractiveness in "Kinsey."

"Some people get depressed wearing an ugly wig and makeup for a week, but I didn't feel that way," she says.

"I loved playing someone who saw life in such a vibrant way. And at the end of the day, when they'd brush my hair and get the prosthetics off, I'd look in the mirror a bit surprised, and say, 'Ooh, hi!'"

Actress Laura Linney has starred in a string of plump roles in movies such as "Mystic River" and "Love Actually" that followed her breakout performance in "You Can Count on Me." And her most recent film, "Kinsey," in which she plays the wife of legendary sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, is generating Oscar buzz.

SUSAN WATTS
New York Daily News

Charles honored with new exhibit

Less than six months after his death, Ray Charles may be more popular than ever with a movie about his life and a posthumously released album.

Now he is being recognized with an exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. "The Genius of Ray Charles" exhibit opened Nov. 19, and a reception to celebrate the opening is planned for Wednesday.

Charles' memorabilia is on loan from his Los Angeles studio and includes electronic keyboards, a saxophone, sunglasses and a collection of awards. The exhibit, expected to remain through Labor Day, also includes video recordings of his performances.

"Ray was very gracious for anything done for him," said Joe Adams, Charles' friend and business manager of 47 years. "He fussed about it, but he loved it. This would have been meaningful to him, definitely."

Charles, 73, died June 10 of liver disease. His final studio recording, "Genius Loves Company," is an album of duets that was released this year. His story is told in the movie "Ray," starring Jamie Foxx, now in statewide theaters.



Charles

'Cheers' actress home from hospital

"Cheers" alum Shelley Long was back home after being briefly hospitalized because she took a dose of medication to treat back pain and the drug made her ill, her manager said Friday.

"Shelley took an extra pain pill for her back, which she hurt when she fell on the set of 'Cheers' many years ago," Martin Mickelson said. "She had a reaction to it ... but she is now home and she is fine."

The actress, who played the prim and neurotic Diane Chambers on the hit 1980s sitcom, was treated overnight sometime within the last two weeks at the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center, Mickelson said.

"She had a nice 'hangover,'" he added. Mickelson denied published reports Friday that suggested Long, 55, had apparently taken an overdose of painkillers brought on by the breakup of her 22-year marriage to stockbroker Bruce Tyson.

'Wall' kids suing Pink Floyd for royalties

Members of the children's chorus who sang on Pink Floyd's anti-authoritarian 1979 hit, "Another Brick in the Wall," are owed thousands of dollars in payment, a royalties agent said.

Peter Rowan said he was representing one member of the group, Peter Thorpe, in a bid for unpaid royalties. Rowan said he hoped other members of the group would join the claim for royalties from a fund set up in 1997 to compensate session musicians.

Two dozen students from Islington Green School in north London sang on the chart-topping track from the album "The Wall," which was recorded at a nearby studio in 1979.

The song attracted controversy for the chorus sung by the children: "We don't need no education/ We don't need no thought control/ No dark sarcasm in the classroom/ Teachers, leave them kids alone."

Welsh stars open new concert hall

Welsh stars past and present took center stage at the opening of a glittering new concert hall in the capital, Cardiff.

Today's stars, including baritone Bryn Terfel, paid tribute to entertainers including Shirley Bassey, soprano Gwyneth Jones and actor Richard Burton at Friday's opening of the Wales Millennium Centre.

The \$200 million slate, glass and steel building, "inspired by the landscape and by the industrial and cultural heritage of Wales," includes a 1,900-seat auditorium that will house the Welsh National Opera and facilities for a variety of arts and cultural organizations.

Dutch film wins top prize at film festival

Dutch film "Stand Van De Maan," which addresses increasing Islamic radicalism in Indonesia, won the top prize at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival.

The festival is billed as the world's largest documentary festival, with more than 200 films shown over two weeks in Amsterdam theaters.

"Stand Van De Maan (Shape of the Moon)," directed by Leonard Retel Helmrich, recorded the story of an Indonesian Christian woman who leaves Jakarta for the countryside to avoid growing unemployment and increasingly fundamentalist Islamic sentiment in the city.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press



Gunmen kill 3 aid workers in Afghanistan

BY NOOR KHAN
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gunmen stormed the office of an Afghan relief organization early Sunday, killing three workers and wounding four police officers in a shootout, officials and the aid group said.

A spokesman for the former ruling militia said it carried out the attack and had executed a fourth man, but claimed it targeted only a police captain.

The pre-dawn assault and the recently resolved kidnapping of three U.N. staffers highlight the

risks still facing reconstruction workers despite landmark elections that were designed to bring political stability three years following the Taliban's ouster.

Police said six vehicles carrying about 30 gunmen raced up to the office of the Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan in Delaram, a town in southwestern Nimroz province, early Sunday.

"A cook, a night watchman and another employee were asleep in the first room," said Najmuddin Mojaddedi, the group's regional head told The Associated Press. "The Taliban shot them dead."

Another watchman was missing, Mojaddedi said.

"The Taliban are just killing innocent people trying to help their country," Mojaddedi said. "I don't understand why they do this."

Local security forces who rushed to the scene engaged the gunmen for about an hour. Four police officers were injured before the militants withdrew with their vehicles, deputy police chief Mohammed Kassoul said.

Mullah Abdul Hakim Latifi, a man who claims to speak for the Taliban, insisted the attack was against a government checkpoint

and that all the victims were soldiers. He said the missing man had been executed.

Latifi also said Taliban militants detonated the bomb which slightly injured three German soldiers in northern Afghanistan on Friday.

"We will continue to attack the United States and its allies, because they have occupied our Islamic country," he said.

His claims could not be verified.

Sunday's three reported fatalities were the first for aid workers in Afghanistan since Aug. 3, when two Afghans working for the Ger-

man Malteser agency died in a hail of gunfire in southeastern Pakia province.

More than 40 relief and reconstruction workers have died this year, restricting the flow of international assistance to the impoverished south and east, where the militants are defeating an 18,000-strong U.S. military force.

Mojaddedi said his group would have to decide whether to pull out of the region, where it has worked for 14 years on agricultural projects.

In Delaram, it distributes seeds on behalf of the U.N. World Food Program and builds schools and wells with the help of Dutch and Italian relief groups.

At least 166 missing in Chinese mine explosion

BY AUDRA ANG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — An explosion tore through a coal mine in central China on Sunday, sending smoke billowing from air vents and trapping at least 166 miners in tunnels and shafts below without communications, the government said.

Some 127 workers managed to escape the state-owned mine, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing the State Bureau of Production Safety.

The blast rocked the state-owned Chenjishan coal mine in Shaanxi province at 7:20 a.m., when 293 workers were underground, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The explosion occurred around 400 pits five miles from the mine entrance, it said.

Most of the miners who escaped were working close to the entrance, Xinhua said, and many suf-



A woman grieves the loss of a relative Sunday in Tongchuan, in China's Shaanxi province. At least 166 miners were trapped Sunday after an explosion ripped through a central Chinese coal mine.

fered from carbon monoxide poisoning. Some 41 were hospitalized.

Witnesses said they saw "huge amounts of thick smoke pouring from the mine's ventilation

vents," hampering rescue efforts, according to the Web site of the Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper.

Staff at Chenjishan said com-

munications with the trapped miners were cut off, the site said.

On its evening newscast, state television showed ambulances rushing to the scene as huge crowds of people gathered outside the mine's main gate.

President Hu Jintao urged rescuers to employ "all effective measures" to save the trapped workers, China Central Television said.

Premier Wen Jiabao, who arrived at the ASEAN summit in Laos on Sunday, said he was "extremely upset" over the accident.

He said the cause of the explosion would be thoroughly investigated and the government will continue to push for safer working conditions in the mines.

China's mines are the world's most dangerous, with thousands of deaths reported every year due to explosions, fires, cave-ins and flooding often blamed on lax safety rules and lack of required equipment.

Deadly garage fire

GRETZENBACH, Switzerland — The bodies of two Swiss firefighters were found in the rubble of a parking garage, raising the number killed in the collapse to seven, officials said Sunday.

The bodies of the two missing firefighters were recovered during the night in a search that lasted nearly 17 hours, a police spokesman said. The other five were recovered during the day Saturday.

Investigations continued Sunday into the cause of the fire.

Police spokesman Frank Wilhelm said initial indications were that the fire started in a car parked in the garage, which was part of an apartment complex in Gretzenbach, a village about 25 miles west of Zurich.

12 crushed by train

NEW DELHI — Twelve people were crushed to death when a train ran over them at a railroad station in central India on Sunday, news reports said.

The dead, mostly college students, were exiting a train at the Sukhi Sevania railroad station, when a second train ran over them, the Press Trust of India reported.

Sukhi Sevania is a small town neighboring Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh state.

The victims apparently were arguing with each other as they left their train and didn't notice the oncoming train, the AajTak television channel quoted railway official Birendra Singh as saying.

Group suicide in Japan

TOKYO — Four men were found dead Sunday in a sealed Tokyo apartment littered with charcoal stoves, a scene police said appeared to be Japan's latest suicide pact.

It appeared the four died of carbon monoxide poisoning, police said.

Suicides in Japan hit a record high last year, exceeding 32,000. Last week in two separate incidents, six people were discovered dead in deserted cars — also strewn with charcoal stoves. In October, seven people killed themselves in what police said was Japan's largest-ever mass suicide.

From The Associated Press

Sharon ready to work with new Palestinian leaders

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview published Sunday he is ready to coordinate Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip to take advantage of new opportunities created by the death of Yasser Arafat.

In separate interviews with Newsweek magazine, both Sharon and the interim Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, said they would be willing to meet after the Jan. 9 Palestinian presidential election.

The leaders also vowed to make efforts to restart the U.S.-backed "road map," a stalled peace plan that calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state next year.

The comments reflected the new atmosphere of reconciliation since the Nov. 11 death of Arafat, whom Israel accused of backing violence.

"I think there is an understanding that this is an opportunity that both sides cannot miss," said Ranan Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon.

The interviews by both leaders "offer a real sense of optimism that this window of opportunity can really be exploited to move the process forward," Gissin said. "The goal is to return back to the road map to peace ... and from there move to political negotiations."

Israel and the Palestinians signed the road

map in June 2003, but the plan quickly stalled amid violations by both sides. The Palestinians failed to crack down on militant groups, while Israel did not meet its obligations to halt construction of settlements in the West Bank and dismantle unauthorized settlement outposts.

Earlier this year, Sharon announced plans to withdraw from Gaza and four West Bank settlements as part of his "unilateral disengagement" plan from the Palestinians.

He said the steps were necessary because there was no "partner" on the Palestinian side. So far he has refused to negotiate the pullout with the Palestinians.

But in the Newsweek interview, Sharon said Arafat's death made it possible to coordinate the pullout with the new Palestinian leadership.

"I am going to make every effort to coordinate our disengagement plan with the new Palestinian government — one that can assume control over areas we evacuate," Sharon was quoted as saying.

Abbas, the candidate of the dominant Fatah movement, has emerged as the front-runner in the Jan. 9 elections. A new poll published Sunday showed him receiving 41 percent of the vote, more than twice the level of his closest competitor.

The poll, carried out by the official Palestinian State Information Service, had a margin of error of four percentage points.



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrives Sunday to the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. He said in an interview that Israel is ready to coordinate its planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with new Palestinian leaders.



KEY: Sunny Partly cloudy Mostly cloudy Cloudy Showers Storms Rain Rain/snow Snow

Cold front Warm front Trough Occluded front Stationary front Low High

AFRICA

Capa Town	HI 40	LO 10	Mogadishu	HI 40	LO 10
Dakar	74	62	Nairobi	87	77
Freeport	80	73	Rabat	71	54
Kinshasa	86	73	Tripoli	74	50

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI 40	LO 10	Manila	HI 87	78
Bahran	72	57	Mexico City	76	48
Beijing	47	27	Montreal	46	37
Bombay	84	67	Nairobi	87	77
Buenos Aires	51	33	Rio de Jan	88	49
Buenos Aires	74	65	Sao Paulo	80	59
Calcutta	82	60	Sofia	50	35
Chengdu	77	65	Sydney	83	69
Chicago	64	55	Tokyo	58	50

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albany, Tex.	54	29	Oil	Cleveland	43	33	City
Albuquerque, N.M.	41	31	City	Colorado Springs	43	33	City
Albuquerque	35	22	City	Columbia, S.C.	62	42	City
Albuquerque	35	22	City	Columbus, Ohio	66	48	City
Albion, Pa.	51	29	City	Concord, N.H.	48	21	City
Albion	51	29	City	Corpus Christi	80	34	City
Albion	51	29	City	Dallas-Ft. Worth	81	58	City
Anchorage	41	31	City	Dayton	83	60	City
Anchorage	41	31	City	Daytona Beach	81	58	City
Anchorage	41	31	City	Daytona Beach	81	58	City
Atlanta	62	46	City	Daytona Beach	81	58	City
Atlanta City	53	28	City	Daytona Beach	81	58	City
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33	City	Hartburg	51	31	City
37	Snow	Hartford Spring	50	31	City
38	City	Hill	50	31	City
40	City	Honolulu	85	74	City
36	City	Houston	74	52	Rain
39	City	Idaho Falls	60	40	City
60	City	Indianapolis	43	35	City
41	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	69	60	City
60	City	Juneau	41	37	Rain
60	City	Kansas City	35	29	City
26	Snow	Key West	81	82	City
32	City	Knoxville	57	42	City
30	City	Lafayette, La.	50	30	City
30	City	Lansing	40	26	City
29	City	Las Vegas	51	32	City
28	City	Lebanon	49	38	City
29	City	Lincoln	30	18	Snow
18	City	Little Rock	53	47	Rain
19	City	Lubbock	49	39	City
18	City	Lubbock	40	24	Snow
9	Snow	Malcom	66	42	City
43	City	Manassas	50	30	City
43	City	Medford	43	21	City
31	City	Memphis	56	38	City
31	City	Miami Beach	82	68	City
31	City	Midland-Odessa	46	30	City
24	City	Minneapolis	46	30	City
26	City	Mpls-St Paul	34	19	City
24	City	Mobile	73	60	City
24	City	Mobile	73	60	City

Horoscope

Jupiter and Neptune are in an auspicious relationship that lasts through Dec. 6 of this year. This represents a return to the hippie values of peace, love and understanding, and as Elvis Costello would say, what's so funny about that? This trine provides an opening for cosmic awareness. We're seeing fewer differences among people.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 29). This year, you learn and apply expert advice to live up to your greatest potential. Next month, you put your sweat and tears into a project, and you'll see victory in the new year because of your hard work. Believe you're meant for financial ease, and a breakthrough comes in February. Singles tie the knot in May, possibly with a Gemini or Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Parenting issues arise. If you are a parent, it's about shifting your style to accommodate the current state of things. If you're not a parent, it's about remembering what you were taught so you don't have to learn the lesson twice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). From the Latin word "discere," which means "to learn," we get the word "discipline." Self-discipline is really about educating yourself, not about creating more ways and reasons to punish yourself. Be nice to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's an opportunity that comes to you solely because someone else slipped up. Be compassionate, but jump on this! Make sure you have fruit, cheese and drinks on hand at home. Someone is stopping by unexpectedly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Friends won't behave themselves, so don't expect them to. The best you can do is refuse to be embarrassed by other people's actions. Make sure to call things in the moment, and you won't have to blow up later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What's on your mind? Money, riches, booty! You've been working hard, and still,

it's just out of reach. Get creative. A brainstorming session will open windows of financial possibility worth investigating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While others concentrate on the frills and fancy finery, you find a practical action that will make the goal happen. By the way, without you, those nice little extras everyone likes would not be possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Despite your efforts, a relationship is still less than perfect. Perhaps it's lovely in its flaws! Anyway, you can still feel bad about a mistake and feel good about yourself. A Sagittarius helps you find compassion for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you're blowing things out of proportion. But, more likely, your sense of proportion just isn't like other people's, and that doesn't make it wrong. There are times when it's fun to make a big to-do over a trifling matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've got it all worked out in your head, but the question is whether everyone else can duplicate your plan. Too bad reality dictates that not everything will go your way. Communicate to the best of your ability.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Big responsibilities are featured, and so is the fear of doing it all wrong — it's a healthy fear, though, and one that will keep you honest. Your brainchild is beginning to "walk." This is the next best thing to being immortal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're a tad glib and could believe someone you'd usually agree is unbelievable. Then comes the mental descent from sublime dreams to commonplace reality. Do not lose faith in visions, though.

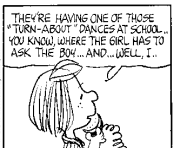
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Consider yourself a protector! Hopefully, people will consult you before making silly decisions or failing for plays designed especially to appeal to the ignorant through sensationalism or cheapness.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



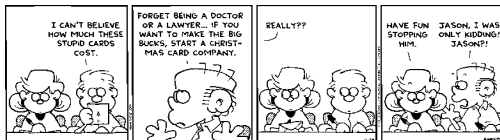
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



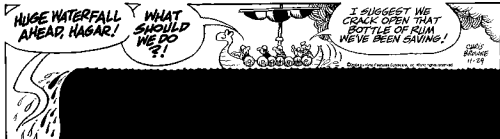
Blondie



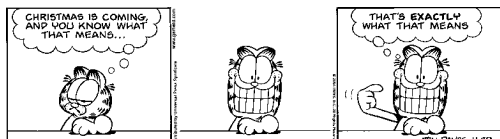
Dilbert



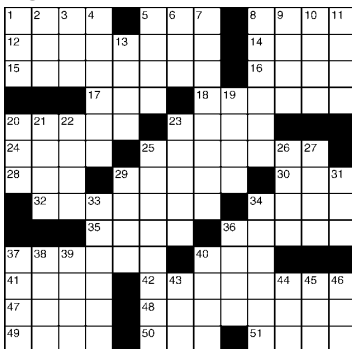
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



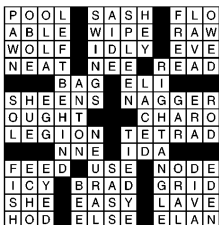
Across

- 1 Hemingway
- 5 Perch
- 8 Black, in verse
- 12 Connnotation
- 14 Caligula's nephew
- 15 Vendor
- 16 Dr. Seuss' off — the Zoo"
- 17 Diving bird
- 18 Bargain
- 20 Improve
- 23 Bacterium
- 24 Lose color
- 25 Chicken of the Sea symbol
- 28 Playground game
- 29 Sweetheart
- 30 The buck stops here
- 32 Deserved
- 34 Skin opening
- 35 Oodles
- 36 Re Ra
- 37 Stephen King's genre
- 40 Church seat
- 41 Chills and fever
- 42 ABC's Vieira
- 47 Diamond or Simon
- 48 Baldness
- 49 Say it isn't so
- 50 Pinch
- 51 Landlord's due

Down

- 1 Lap dog, for short
- 2 Rd.
- 3 Apiece
- 4 Obscure
- 5 Drench
- 6 Hostel
- 7 On a leash
- 8 Baffler
- 9 Titanic thwarter
- 10 By spoken word of mouth
- 11 Zilch
- 13 Sound of a dull impact
- 19 Host
- 20 Sternward
- 21 One often thanked?
- 22 Advantage
- 23 Existentialist playwright
- 25 Streetcar driver
- 26 "American —" character
- 27 "David Copperfield"
- 29 Port city on the Big Island
- 31 Always
- 33 Almost never
- 34 Keg contents
- 36 Leak slowly
- 37 Applause
- 38 Curved molding
- 39 Destruction
- 40 Object on stage
- 43 Inventor
- 44 Bar supply
- 45 Stannum
- 46 Chapeau

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-29

CRYPTOQUIP

G T K S F V Q K U R G V G D Q S F
A G B B G F - V T F - L Q Q T
N T K Y K N V F Y E . A Q Z D U I Q Z

E K I G ' R V G X X F Y - T K L L I ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PODIATRIST
TURNS AGAINST SOMEBODY, I SUPPOSE HE
MIGHT BECOME AN ARCH ENEMY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—NFL: Tennessee at Houston (ind.).
AFN-2, 2 a.m.—NFL: Oakland at Denver.
AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m.—NFL: Oakland at Denver.
AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.—Golf: Skins Game, Day 2.
AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College football: Cincinnati Bearcats at Ohio State.
AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.—Golf: Shinhan Korea Championship, final round (ind.).

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Purdue at North Carolina State.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Nevada at Oregon State.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Louisville at Kansas.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—Bowling: PBA Pepsi Open (ind.).
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—NFL: St. Louis at Green Bay (ind.).
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Woodward, Illinois vs. Gonzaga (ind.).
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Wooden Tradition, Purdue vs. Cincinnati (ind.).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: St. Louis at Green Bay (ind.).

All times Central European Time; ind. indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
	East			West		
	W	L	T	Pct	Pf	Pa
New England	9	1	0	.900	264	171
San Diego	7	3	0	.700	212	183
Buffalo	4	6	0	.400	180	213
Miami	1	9	0	.100	140	180
	South			North		
Indianapolis	8	3	0	.727	380	239
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	166	181
Houston	4	6	0	.400	198	233
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	186	212
	North			West		
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.900	240	161
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	204	140
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	183	198
Cleveland	3	7	0	.300	177	208
	West			East		
Denver	7	3	0	.700	233	167
San Diego	7	3	0	.700	285	190
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	182	213
Kansas City	3	7	0	.300	276	265

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
	East					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	1	0	.900	266	158
N.Y. Giants	5	5	0	.500	196	172
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	193	280

Dallas	4	7	0	.304	193	289
Washington	3	7	0	.300	131	178
South						
Atlanta	8	2	0	.800	208	194
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	192	182
New Orleans	4	6	0	.400	211	288

Carolina	3	7	0	.300	196	222
	North					
Green Bay	6	4	0	.600	256	230
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	264	246
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	192	257
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	172	221

Chicago	4	7	0	.504	172	221
	West					
Seattle	6	4	0	.600	230	185
St. Louis	5	5	0	.500	220	254
Arizona	4	6	0	.400	177	214
San Francisco	1	9	0	.100	175	296

Indianapolis 41, Detroit 9
Dallas 21, Chicago 7

Sunday's games
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Cleveland at Cincinnati
San Diego at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Jacksonville at Minnesota

New Orleans at Atlanta
Buffalo at Seattle
N.Y. Jets at Arizona
Miami at San Francisco
Baltimore at New England
Oakland at Denver

Monday's game
St. Louis at Green Bay
Sunday, Dec. 5
Arizona at Detroit
Buffalo at Miami

Houston at N.Y. Jets
 Minnesota at Chicago
 Tennessee at Indianapolis
 Cincinnati at Baltimore
 San Francisco at St. Louis
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay

Carolina at New Orleans
New England at Cleveland
Denver at San Diego
Kansas City at Oakland
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Cinco Bull at Philadelphia

Green Bay at Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville	
Monday, Dec. 6	
Dallas at Seattle	

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Saturday

1. Wake Forest (5-0) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Illinois, Wednesday.
2. Kansas (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Nevada, Monday.
3. Georgia Tech (3-0) did not play. Next:

3. Michigan, Tuesday.

4. Syracuse (5-0) beat Siena 78-56. Next: vs. St. Bonaventure, Wednesday.

5. Illinois (4-0) beat No. 24 Gonzaga 89-72. Next: vs. No. 1 Wake Forest, Wednesday.

6. Oklahoma State (3-0) beat Sam Houston State 73-57. Next: at Southern Methodist, Monday.

7. Connecticut (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida International, Tuesday.

8. Kentucky (3-0) did not play. Next: vs.

an increasingly busy and more pragmatic record was Tennessee Tech, Tuesday.

THURSDAY'S GAMES										
Atlanta	0	7	0	0	0	San Francisco	4	0	400	199
San Francisco	4	0	0	300	243	San Francisco	4	0	400	199
San Francisco	4	0	0	300	243	San Francisco	4	0	400	199
San Francisco	4	0	0	300	243	San Francisco	4	0	400	199

9. Duke (3-0) beat North Carolina-Greensboro 14-6. Next: vs. No. 10 Michigan State, Wednesday.
 10. Michigan State (2-0) beat North Carolina State 10-27. Next: vs. No. 9 Duke, Tuesday.
 11. Virginia Tech (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Southern California, Saturday.
 12. Wake Forest (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lafayette, Saturday.

13. Maryland (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Wisconsin, Tuesday.
 14. Wisconsin (2-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Alabama, Thursday.
 15. Boston College (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.

16. Boston College (4-0) beat Loyola 50-57. Next: vs. St. Francis, Pa., Wednesday.
 17. St. Francis (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Notre Dame, Saturday.
 18. Notre Dame (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Monday.

19. Purdue (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wyoming, Tuesday.
 20. Wyoming (4-1) lost to No. 22 Washington 79-76. Next: vs. East Tennessee State, Tuesday.
 21. Wisconsin (2-1) lost to Pepperdine 79-76. Next: vs. No. 24 Gonzaga, Wednesday.

22. Notre Dame (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Saturday.
 23. Washington (4-0) beat No. 19 Alabama 79-76. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Tuesday.
 24. Washington (4-0) beat No. 5 Illinois 89-72. Next: vs. No. 22 Washington, Wednesday.

25. Memphis (4-2) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Friday.
 26. Memphis (4-2) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Friday.

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 72. Memphis (4-2) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Friday.

73. Memphis (4-2) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Friday.
 74.

Illin'rip Gonzaga; Wake is next

Illinois shows power, balance in dominating Wooden game

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — After three straight blowouts, No. 5 Illinois was looking forward to its first real test against No. 24 Gonzaga.

Now it looks like the Illini will have to wait until top-ranked Wake Forest comes to Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday.

Deron Williams and Luther Head each scored 20 points to lead Illinois to an 89-72 victory over Gonzaga in the John Wooden Tradition game.

The Illini (4-0) set the tone from the opening tip, using superior three-point shooting and suffocating defense to dominate the Bulldogs (3-1) and set up an early-season showdown with the Demon Deacons (3-0), who won the Preseason NIT on Friday night.

"We just came out and tried to make a statement, show we're for real," Williams said.

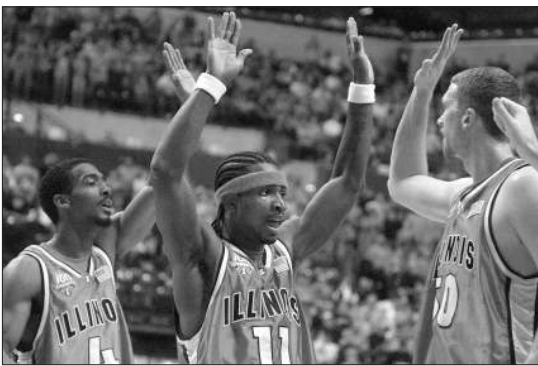
Illinois made 14 of 28 three-pointers and scored 29 points off 19 Gonzaga turnovers to turn the game into a rout in the first 10 minutes.

"We were thoroughly dominated today, in every phase of the game," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "There were times it didn't appear we belonged out there on the court."

Adam Morrison led Gonzaga with 26 points and 11 rebounds and Ronny Turiaf had 12 points and nine rebounds.

Williams got the Illini started on an 11-0 run early in the first half, and Illinois didn't look back. Illinois forced seven turnovers in the first five minutes, which led to 14 points and an 18-4 lead.

No. 6 Oklahoma St. 73, Sam Houston St. 57: At Stillwater, Okla., Jerry Graham scored 25



Illinois guards Luther Head, left, and Dee Brown, middle, celebrate with center Jack Ingram during the first half of Saturday's Wooden Tradition game in Indianapolis. No. 5 Illinois walked No. 24 Gonzaga 89-72.

points, John Lucas III added 17 and Oklahoma State recovered from another subpar first half to beat Sam Houston State.

Graham scored 18 points in the second half, and Lucas had 14 of his 17 after the break to help the Cowboys (3-0) overcome a six-point halftime deficit. Orhelo Alford led Sam Houston State (1-4) with 13 points.

No. 16 Pittsburgh 93, Loyola, Md. 57: At Pittsburgh, Chevon Troutman and Chris Taft dominated much-smaller Loyola, Md., inside at both ends of the floor and Pittsburgh cruised to its third consecutive victory against weak opposition.

The 6-foot-10 Taft and the 6-foot-7 Troutman were in control from the start against Loyola (0-3), which hasn't had a winning season since going to the NCAA tournament in 1994 under current Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser.

Troutman finished with 17 points and six rebounds, and Taft had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Antonio Graves, sidelined for Pitt's opener with a sore ankle, added 12 points and Ronald Ramon and Yuri Demeris scored 10 each.

No. 22 Washington 79, No. 19 Alabama 76: At Anchorage, Alaska, Will Conroy had 18 points and six assists to help Washington win the Great Alaska Shootout.

Washington (4-0) led the entire second half, but barely avoided overtime when Alabama's Kennedy Winston missed a wild three-pointer at the buzzer.

The Huskies' Tate Robinson finished with 16 points and was selected the tournament's outstanding player. The Simmons, starting in place of the injured Brandon Roy, had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Bobby Jones also had 15 points.

Chuck Davis led Alabama (4-1) with 23 points and 19 rebounds.

Pepperdine 75, No. 20 Wisconsin 61: At Malibu, Calif., Glen McGowan scored 29 points to help Pepperdine beat Wisconsin for its fourth straight victory.

Alex Acker added 17 points and seven assists for the Waves (4-1), who defeated a ranked opponent for the first time since beating Gonzaga 88-79 on Jan. 8, 2002.

Alando Tucker scored 18 points for Wisconsin (2-1).

No. 23 Florida 84, Providence 66: At Miami, Matt Walsh scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half, helping Florida defeat Providence — the alma mater of Georgia coach Billy Donovan.

Anthony Roberson had 17 points, David Lee added 16 and Taurian Green 13 for the Gators (3-0), who never trailed. Ryan Gomes had 17 points for Providence (4-2), which was playing its third game in four days.

Tunkka Koti had a career-high 17 — 16 in the first half — for the Friars, who lost to No. 1 Wake Forest in Wednesday's Preseason NIT semifinals, beat Michigan in Friday's consolation game at Madison Square Garden, then boarded a charter flight to Miami and faced the Gators 17 hours after landing.

Duke trims Greensboro to set stage for Mich. St.

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke got the tuneup it needed before facing Michigan State.

Shelden Williams had 16 points and 11 rebounds Saturday night, one of six Blue Devils in double figures in a 98-44 rout of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Daniel Ewing and J.D. Redick also scored 16 points for the No. 9 Blue Devils (3-0), who built a 20-point lead midway through the first half and were unchallenged thereafter by their in-state rival from the Southern Conference.

It was a good way to rebound from an off night in a 74-61 defeat of Davidson, also from the Southern Conference. And for a team that came in shooting just 41 percent this season, it was a confidence boost before hosting No. 10 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

"We wanted to use this game as a way to gain momentum for the rest of the week," Redick said.

The Blue Devils had won the previous four over UNC-Greensboro (2-1) by an average of nearly 39 points, and practically topped Saturday's meeting into a collection of highlight-reel moments. Duke shot 53 percent, hit 15 three-pointers and used its superior defense and athleticism to smother the Spartans.

No. 10 Michigan State 102, Nichols State 52: At East Lansing, Mich., Michigan State coach Tom Izzo wasn't happy despite a 40-point victory in his 300th game.

The Spartans posted their third straight 100-point game, but Izzo's team now faces a real test at No. 9 Duke in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge on Tuesday. Following that is a possible meeting with No. 13 Maryland in a tournament in Washington, D.C. "I guess teams go through this all over the country when they play this kind of schedule," Izzo said of a 104-72 rout over Florida A&M and 104-46 win over Wisconsin-Green Bay. "It has given us a false sense of security that, thank God, will end on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday."

Michigan State (3-0) had every reason to feel secure about the outcome against the Colonels (0-3). Maurice Ager scored 19 points, Kelvin Torbert added 16, Shanon Brown and Alan Anderson had 15 apiece and Paul Davis had 11 for a team that has averaged 103.3 points.

The main thing we've learned is that we can't let up," Ager said. "Today, we were playing a smaller team and could pound the ball inside. Against Duke, we'll have to be almost perfect if we want to prove we've grown, that we're not the same team as last year."

The Blue Devils beat Michigan State 72-50 last season, a loss that stayed with the Spartans for weeks.

Izzo, in his 10th season, has a 210-90 record.

McNamara too much as Syracuse rolls

By John Kekis
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gerry McNamara did it all for No. 4 Syracuse, scoring 29 points and making the first dunk of his college career. And he even managed to survive a couple of headstrong dives, one of which left him sprawled in the Siena band.

Hakim Warrick and Josh Pace each added 13 points Saturday to help the Orange to a 78-56 victory over Siena. Syracuse took an 18-2 lead in the first five minutes and led comfortably thereafter.

McNamara, Syracuse's best outside shooter, paced the early surge with a layup and a dunk

after a steal and court-long dash. He then completed a four-point play after hitting his 20th career three-pointer.

The scrappy Saints, who had 12 steals, regrouped and rallied back to 23-14 on a three-pointer from the left wing by Tay Fisher, who finished with 12 points. But every time Siena seemed on the verge of making it a game, McNamara struck back.

"I pride myself in making the ones when I need to. When you jump on a team early and keep them off, it's not too bad," said McNamara, who leaped out of the bounds for loose balls in the second half, topping a photographer once and landing in the Siena band the other time.

"We didn't expect to destroy these guys, not in the least. We knew that they were a good team. Coach said not to underestimate them, they have a couple of losses, but in every loss a little dry spell cost them."

That dry spell occurred early in this one, but over the first 35 minutes, Syracuse outscored Siena by 10 to 60-54.

"It had a funny feeling. It was kind of a close game the whole game," said Warrick, who had 15 rebounds and three steals. "If we were up 15 or 17, it never felt like that. It always felt like they were a few shots from tying it or being right back in the game."

It was the first time Syracuse

had played in the building in which it beat Auburn and Oklahoma to earn a berth in the NCAA tournament Final Four on the way to winning the 2003 national championship.

"I could live in here," said McNamara, who was 6-for-14 on three-pointers. "That's the way I felt last time. It's fun to be back." Syracuse (5-0) got its 29th straight victory over an in-state foe. Siena (0-5) shot 32.3 percent and was outscored 54-29.

"We did a good job defensively the whole game," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "We didn't identify Fisher a couple of times, but we did a good job on (Michael) Haddix," who led Siena with 15 points.

Barrera outslugs Morales

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales put on a classic the first time they fought four years ago. They matched it again in their third fight Saturday night, only this time the result was different.

Barrera won a majority decision to take the WBC 130-pound title in a wild slugfest that was every bit the equal of the battle the two fought in 2000 that many declared the fight of the year.

After 12 rounds of almost non-stop action, Barrera held two fingers in the air to signify his second win in a row over Morales, who stared in disbelief as the decision was read.

"I did this fight to show all boxing fans that this is what boxing is all about," Barrera said.

The fight between the two Mexican warriors was their third in four years — with Morales winning the first and Barrera the second.

Like the first fight, this one was in doubt until the scorecards were read before a wildly enthusiastic crowd that filled the MGM Grand hotel arena.

Barrera was favored 115-113



Marco Antonio Barrera celebrates his win over Erik Morales, of Mexico, after their WBC super featherweight title fight.

on one card and 115-114 on a second. The third judge had it 114-114. The Associated Press also had the fight even, 114-114.

"My body didn't respond to what I wanted it to do," Morales said. "I don't know why."

Before a loud crowd that seemed split between the two fighters, Morales and Barrera gave them all something to cheer for in a fight that began at a furious pace and rarely slackened.

It was reminiscent of their first fight in 2000 in which the two boxers traded more than 1,500 punches before Morales won a split decision. They did the same thing Saturday night, but this time it was Barrera on top, just as he was in their first rematch two years ago.

Punch stats showed Barrera landing 209 of 765 punches to 231 of 806 for Morales.

"It was the most rewarding fight of my career," Barrera said.

Morales was a 3-1 favorite in a fight that matched two boxers with no love for each other who both enjoyed big followings from their respective parts of Mexico. The animosity showed when Morales refused to touch gloves on several occasions and after the ninth round when Barrera threw a late punch and Morales had to be restrained from going after him.

Russia wins first

BY LEONID CHIZHOV

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia edged defending champion France 3-2 to claim its first Fed Cup title Sunday, with Anastasia Myskina and Vera Zvonareva beating Marion Bartoli and Emilie Loit 7-6 (3), 7-5 in the decisive doubles match.

Russia had lost its four previous Fed Cup finals.

The two-day final was tied 1-1 heading into Sunday, and Myskina broke for Russia 6-3, 6-4 to put Russia ahead 2-1. But U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsovna wasted a chance to clinch the title, losing to 16-year-old Taina Golovin 6-4, 6-1.

Myskina had a hand in each of Russia's three points in the best-of-five final. She easily beat Golovin on Saturday.

In the doubles, the French pair wasted four set points while serving for the opener at 6-5, and French Open champion Myskina converted a break point after the game's fifth deuce with a backhand winner. Russia trailed in the tiebreaker, too, but came back from 3-0 down and won it with another backhand winner by Myskina.

In the second set, the Russians broke for a 6-5 lead, then served it out to lose in front of a home crowd that included former president Boris Yeltsin, a big tennis fan.

Earlier, Kuznetsovna struggled to hold her serve against Golovin, and committed 46 unforced errors only a day after making 77 mistakes in a three-set loss to Dechy on October 10.

"My tactics for the match were wrong and I didn't realize it during the match," Kuznetsova said.

Myskina broke Dechy in the opening game and served out the first set.

In the second, Myskina broke in the first game again, but the Frenchwoman struck back. Myskina, however, broke again and kept attacking, not allowing Dechy to come to the net.

"I had no choice today but go on the court and win the match. The match was rather simple. There's no difficulty playing against Nathalie," said Myskina, who scored her fifth consecutive victory over Dechy. "Mentally I wasn't tired. It was more physically. I couldn't move on the court as fast as I did yesterday."

Bears expected to sign QB George

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Struggling desperately at quarterback, the Chicago Bears intend to sign veteran Jeff George, a team source said Sunday.

The Bears will sign George on Monday, the source said on the condition of anonymity.

The 36-year-old George is a 12-year veteran who has not played since he was released by the Washington Redskins in 2001.

Chicago's quarterback woes began in the third week of the season when starter Rex Grossman sustained a season-ending knee injury.

Backup Jonathan Quinn struggled as he replaced by rookie Oso Krenzkel.

The Bears went on a three-game winning streak with Krenzkel as a starter, but he was shaky and turnover prone as Chicago lost its last two games. Krenzkel was knocked out of Thursday's loss to Dallas with a sprained ankle, and Quinn was ineffective again as his replacement.

The Bears (4-7) are expected to turn to third-stringer Chad Hutchinson on Monday and give him the start on Dec. 5 against the Minnesota Vikings. Hutchinson is a former major league pitcher with the St. Louis Cardinals who started nine games as a rookie with the Cowboys in 2002.

Earlier this season, the Bears gave a tryout to former Browns and Packers quarterback Tim Couch before deciding not to sign him.

George, who played college football at Illinois, entered the NFL in 1990 with the Colts. He also played with the Falcons, Raiders, Vikings and Redskins. He completed 58 percent of his passes during a 131-game career, throwing for 154 touchdowns with 113 interceptions.

U.S. wins 4-man bobsled race

WINTERBORG, Germany — A U.S. sled piloted by Todd Hays edged Russia by 0.01 seconds Sunday to win the four-man bobsled World Cup opener.

The race was so close that the two sleds that tied for fourth fin-

Sports briefs

ished just 0.05 seconds behind the Americans.

Hays and his team had a fast second heat of 54.72 seconds to finish in 1 minute, 49.56 seconds, catching the Russian sled piloted by Alexander Subbotin at 1:49.57. Hays' team was made up of Pavel Janovic, Bill Schuffenhauer and Steve Mesler. They trailed the Russians after the first run by 0.05 seconds.

The Swiss team led by Martin Annen was third, 0.01 seconds behind the Russians.

U.S. relay team loses medals

MONTE CARLO, Monaco — The United States was stripped of its 1,600-meter relay gold medal from the 2003 world championships on Sunday because of Calvin Harrison's second doping violation.

The gold instead goes to France, with Jamaica getting the silver and the Bahamas the bronze, the world governing body of track and field said.

Harrison was found guilty of using the stimulant modafinil in the U.S. championships in June 2003. He had contended that modafinil wasn't specifically mentioned on the official list of banned substances at the time.

Harrison had a chance to appeal the ruling, but the International Association of Athletics Federations said he was too late.

Ten years earlier, Harrison tested positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine during the 1993 U.S. junior indoor championships and served a three-month ban.

As a two-time offender, the 400-meter star was suspended for two years in early August this year and dropped from the American team for the Athens Olympics. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency also ordered him to forfeit his relay gold medal from last year's worlds in Paris, and all his results from the time of the test have been nullified.

Harrison ran the opening leg of the relay final. The other three

runners — Tyrone Washington, Derrick Brew and Jerome Young — will lose their medals, too. They were French runners Leslie Djhone, Nannan Keita, Stephanie Diagona and Marc Raquil.

Young has since been banned for life by the USADA for his second doping violation in a case that could result in the American 1,600 relay team from the 2000 Sydney Olympics — including Djhone — losing its gold medals. The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, is yet to rule on that case.

Dodd edges Bjorn in China

SHANGHAI, China — Wales' Stephen Dodd won the China Open for his first PGA European Tour title, shooting a 4-under 68 on Sunday for a three-stroke victory over Denmark's Thomas Bjorn.

Dodd, 58th on the European money list last season, had a 12-under 276 total on the Silport course.

Bjorn, the top-ranked player in the field at No. 31, shot at 68. England's Steve Webster (68) tied for third at 6 under with Australia's Jason Daves (66) and Thai star Chawatt Plapong (66) and Thailand's Wiratchai (68). Daves had a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth, the 11th ace of his career.

Oberholzer wins in Korea

JEJU, South Korea — American Aron Oberholzer earned \$1 million in the Shinhan Korea Golf Championship on Sunday, closing with a 3-under 69 for a two-stroke victory in the first PGA Tour-sanctioned Challenge Season event in Asia.

Oberholzer, 32, was winless in two full seasons on the PGA Tour after winning twice on the Nationwide Tour in 2002, had a 4-under 284 total on the Jungmun course. He had five birdies and two bogeys in the final round.

Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez, the third-round leader at 2 under, shot 77 to tie for fourth with South Korea's Kevin Na (70).

South Africa's Trevor Immelman had a 65, the best round of the day, to finish fourth at 1 under. Tim Petrovic (70) and Sweden's Daniel Chappell (71) followed at 1 over.

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E. Washington knocks off No. 1 S. Illinois

Six-time champ Georgia Southern is beaten at home; Atlantic 10 advances four teams to I-AA Final Eight

The Associated Press

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Erik Meyer threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Eric Kimble with 1:49 left and Eastern Washington beat top-ranked Southern Illinois 35-31 on Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

Eastern Washington (9-3) will face Sam Houston State in the quarterfinals. Sam Houston routed Western Kentucky 54-24.

Meyer, who completed 31 of 44 passes for 437 yards, brought Eastern Washington back from a 17-7 halftime deficit and a 24-14 hole midway through the third quarter. His third TD pass of the game to Kimble capped a five-play, 75-yard drive that took just 42 seconds.

Kimble caught 11 passes for 195 yards as Eastern Washington handed Southern Illinois its second loss in 12 games.

In other games Saturday:

New Hampshire 27, Georgia Southern 23: At Statesboro, Ga., R.J. Harvey gave New Hampshire its first lead on a 52-yard run early in the fourth quarter and the Wildcats made it stand up.

The Wildcats (10-2) trailed 21-6 early in the second quarter but scored the game's last three touchdowns, handing Georgia Southern (9-3) the first first-round defeat in the school's proud history.

The Eagles, making their 15th playoff appearance, have won the Division I-AA championship six times.

New Hampshire joined Atlantic 10 members Delaware, William & Mary and James Madison in the quarterfinals, the first time

NCAA I-AA playoffs

a conference has had four teams advance that far in the Division I-AA playoffs.

Sam Houston St. 54, W. Kentucky 24: At Huntsville, Texas, former Texas A&M quarterback Dustin Long was 30-for-43 for 323 yards and four touchdowns for Sam Houston State (10-2).

Justin Haddix was 14-for-26 for 242 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for Western Kentucky (9-3).

Montana 56, Northwestern St. 7: At Missoula, Mont., Lex Hilliard ran for 171 yards and four touchdowns, and Craig Ochs passed for 234 yards and three scores for Montana.

The Grizzlies (10-2) will face New Hampshire at home in the quarterfinals.

The 56 points were the most allowed by Northwestern State (8-4) since it became a I-AA school in 1977. Montana had 543 yards in total offense against the Demons, who led I-AA in total defense, allowing opponents just 250 yards per game this season.

William & Mary 42, Hampton 35: At Williamsburg, Va., Dominique Thompson caught two touchdown passes and returned a kickoff 92 yards in the fourth quarter to put William & Mary ahead for good.

Thompson had 118 receiving yards, Lang Campbell was 23-of-37 for 294 yards and Elijah Brooks ran for 120 yards for the Tribe (10-2).

William & Mary advanced to play Delaware. Hampton finished the season 10-2.

Delaware 28, Lafayette 14: At Newark, Del., quarterback Sonny Riccio ran for two touchdowns, and Garron Biele returned a fumble 87 yards for a late touchdown for Delaware (9-3).

Omar Cuff ran for 109 yards for the Blue Hens. Lafayette finished the season 8-4.

Furman 49, Jacksonville St. 7: At Greensboro, S.C., former Florida starter Ingle Martin threw four touchdowns passes to lead Furman to its first I-AA playoff victory in three years.

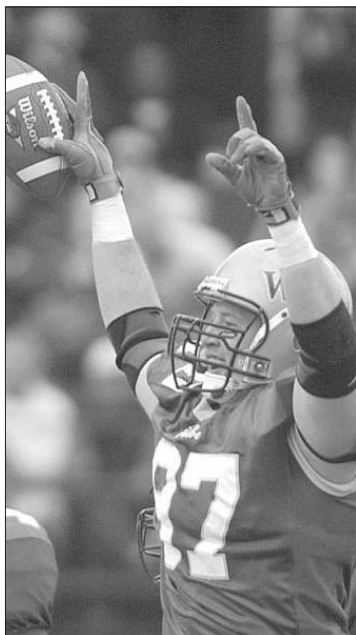
Furman, the 1988 national champs, hadn't won a playoff game since reaching the title game in 2001. The Paladins (10-2) will face James Madison in the quarterfinals.

Martin's touchdown passes gave him a school-record 21 for the season, surpassing the mark of 19 set by Furman coach Bobby Lamb in 1984. He also matched Lamb's record of four touchdown throws in a playoff win over Rhode Island in 1985.

James Madison 14, Lehigh 13: At Bethlehem, Pa., Raymond Hines ran for 193 yards and a touchdown for James Madison (10-2). Quarterback Justin Rascati was 9-for-14 for 122 yards and also scored on a 9-yard run as James Madison advanced to the second round of the playoffs against Furman.

Mark Borda was 23-for-36 for 215 yards for Lehigh (9-3).

Rascati's TD run capped a 14-play, 91-yard drive in the first quarter and Hines got the final yard in a 14-play, 65-yard drive that put James Madison ahead for good at 14-10 with 61 seconds left in the half.



William and Mary's Adam O'Connor rejoices after recovering a fumble during the fourth quarter of Saturday's 42-35 victory over Hampton.

Grand Valley ousted in I; Mount Union rolls in III

The Associated Press

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Backup quarterback Chris Belmore scored on a 2-yard run with 4:59 left and the Grand Valley State team beat two-time defending NCAA Division II champion Grand Valley State 19-15 in a quarterfinal playoff game Saturday.

Adam Wolf recovered a fumble and the Grand Valley State team set up the winning TD for North Dakota (11-2). Cullen Finnerty threw two touchdown passes for the Lakers (10-3), who had won 10 straight playoff games.

The Sioux, who ran their home winning streak to 18 games, host Pittsburg State next week in the semifinals.

Pittsburg St. 50, NW Missouri 36: At Pittsburg, Kan., Neal Philpot ran for 131 yards and passed for 50, and Germie Ruck rushed for 130 yards for top-ranked Pittsburg State (13-0).

The Gorillas broke a 118-year-old NCAA all-division

NCAA II-III playoffs

scoring record, finishing the game with 774. Harvard set the previous record of 765 in 1886 in a 14-game season.

Northwest Missouri finished the season 12-3.

West Chester 49, East Stroudsburg 38: At East Stroudsburg, Pa., Osage Osunde ran for 144 yards and three touchdowns, and Bob Findora was 18-of-25 for 338 yards and four TDs for West Chester (11-3).

West Chester will face Valdosta State in the semifinals.

Jim Terwilliger was 15-of-25 for 309 yards and four TDs and rushed for 82 yards on 15 carries for East Stroudsburg (10-2).

Valdosta St. 38, Albany St. 24: At Albany, Ga., Vincent Brown ran for one touchdown and caught a pass for another to help Valdosta State (12-1) over-

come a 24-point halftime deficit to tie Albany State's 19-game winning streak.

Brown had 66 of his team's 161 yards on the ground, including a 1-yard touchdown run in the second half, while Fabian Walker threw for 203 yards and a touchdown, including a 26-yard strike to Brown.

Albany State, which beat Valdosta State 24-22 in the season opener, finished 11-1.

Division III

Mount Union 27, Wheaton 6: At Alliance, Ohio, Jeff Strauch ran for 206 yards and two scores, and quarterback Zac Bruney rushed for 145 yards and a touchdown to help Mount Union beat Wheaton in the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Mount Union (11-0) ran 46 times for 399 yards — an average of 8.7 yards per carry — while holding Wheaton (9-2) to 123 yards on 51 carries.

Mount Union, which has won

seven Division III titles since 1993, advanced to play Carthage in the quarterfinals. Carthage beat Wooster 14-7.

Carthage 14, Wooster 7: At Wooster, Ohio, Luke Thompson returned the opening kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown and Jim Cichon scored on a play recovery for Carthage (11-1).

Linfield 52, Wisconsin-La Crosse 14: At McMinnville, Ore., Brett Elliott passed for 456 yards and five touchdowns and Casey Allen caught eight passes for 168 yards and two TDs for the Wildcats (10-0), who play Occidental in the quarterfinals.

Occidental 42, Concordia-Moorhead 40: At Fargo, N.D., Occidental (10-1) forced Concordia's Brian Schumacher to fumble on a 2-point conversion attempt with 2:54 left. Schumacher's 15-yard TD pass to Shawn Reile had brought Concordia (11-1) within reach of a tie to force overtime.

Rowan 45, Hobart, N.Y. 14: At Glassboro, N.J., Mike Ortlieb threw three touchdowns passes and Pat Thompson ran for 153 yards and two scores for Rowan (9-2), which faces Delaware Valley in the quarterfinals.

Delaware Valley 26, St. John Fisher 20: At Doylestown, Pa., Adam Knoblauch scored on a 2-yard run with 9 seconds left to lift Delaware Valley (12-0) to its 14th straight victory.

Mary Hardin-Baylor 42, Hardin-Simmons 28: At Abilene, Texas, Chad Starnes ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns and Josh Welch threw three TD passes for Mary Hardin-Baylor (11-1), which will face Washington & Jefferson in the quarterfinals.

Washington & Jefferson 24, Christopher Newport 14: At Washington, Pa., Chris Edwards threw for 293 yards and two touchdowns to lead Washington & Jefferson (12-0). Edwards completed 26 of 42 passes for the Presidents.

BC gets taken out of BCS

Syracuse's Diamond makes sure Eagles leave without a ring

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — If you can't join 'em, beat 'em.

Syracuse wasn't able to follow Boston College to the Atlantic Coast Conference or stop the Eagles from leaving the Big East. The one thing the Orange could do was deprive BC of a spot in the Bowl Championship Series and a farewell Big East title.

"We heard it all week," said defensive back turned running back Diamond Ferri, who scored two touchdowns on offense and one on defense to help Syracuse beat No. 17 Boston College 43-17 on Saturday. "If they want to leave the conference, we wanted to send them out with a loss."

BC needed a victory for its first outright championship in a league that has been depleted by the defections of Miami and Virginia Tech to the ACC. The Eagles will join them next year but Syracuse, which tried to leave before being bypassed, made sure that they left on a sour note.

Damien Rhodes ran for a 69-yard touchdown on the game's first play from scrimmage and 107 yards on the game's last play with a leg injury. With star tailback Walter Keyes already injured, the Orange (6-5, 4-2) turned to Ferri, a starting safety and former high school running back.

"That's probably one of the biggest performances I've ever seen in my entire life, in any sport, to be able to come in and play a big-time college football like that," Rhodes said of his understudy.

The Orange, who woke up Saturday morning still not eligible for a bowl, moved into a four-way tie with BC (8-3, 4-2), Pittsburgh and West Virginia for first place in the conference. Syracuse has a chance at a BCS game if Pittsburgh loses to South Florida next week, if Pitt wins, it would likely earn a Fiesta Bowl matchup with Utah.

"It gives us a share of the Big East championship. We've had a lot of special Syracuse coaches happen here, but it's pretty special," Syracuse coach Tom O'Brien said. "It's pretty special to see Paul Pasqualoni say, 'I'm just going to enjoy that we're bowl-eligible.'"

BC will go to its sixth consecutive bowl game, but it will be a second- or third-tier event like the Insight or Gator. Athletic director Gene DeFilippo said six or more bowl games could be in play.

But the Fiesta and Sugar, BC's goals at the start of the day, are out.

"I suspect at 8-3 we will go somewhere, but who knows where we'll end up," coach Tom O'Brien said. "We need another football game, especially for the seniors. . . . For them, we need to play another football game."

Ferri, who ran for 141 yards two touchdowns, scored again on a 44-yard interception that made it 36-17 and sealed the victory in the fourth quarter.



Syracuse's Diamond Ferri (22) celebrates one of his two rushing touchdowns with teammate Adam Terry. Ferri, a safety, also scored on an interception return.

Pitt now Big East's likely BCS entry

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — This hardly seemed possible when Pitt needed frantic rallies to overcome Division I-AA Furman or Big East cellar dweller Temple. Or when the Panthers could barely move the ball against Ohio — not Ohio State, but Ohio U.

The Panthers (7-3, 4-2) are the frontrunner for the Big East's Bowl Championship Series bid during a rebuilding year, one season after they settled for a minor bowl with Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald. Pitt's come-from-behind 16-13 victory over West Virginia on Thursday and Syracuse's 43-17 upset of No. 17 Boston College on Saturday forged a four-way tie for the Big East title among Pitt, Syracuse, Boston College and preseason favorite West Virginia.

All four own a 2-1 Big East record, but Pitt and Syracuse (6-5) share the tiebreaker with 2-1 records among the four tied teams. If Pittsburgh beats South Florida (4-6) on Saturday to improve to 8-3, the Panthers are virtually assured of the BCS bid, probably to the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl in play No. 5 Utah (11-0).

"It's all in our hands now," Pitt quarterback Tyler Palko said Saturday after watching the Syracuse upset.

The Panthers lost in double overtime to Syracuse 38-31 on Nov. 6 but haven't lost since, and it has upset ranked teams in its past two, Notre Dame and West Virginia.

Iowa State couldn't convert in overtime on first-and-goal from the Missouri 3.

The Cyclones tied Colorado for first place in the North, but the Buffaloes advance to the conference championship game next Saturday against No. 2 Oklahoma in Kansas City because of their 19-14 victory over Iowa State on Oct. 10.

"It makes you want to throw up," said linebacker Erik Anderson, his eyes still red from crying. "It's a sick feeling. We fought all day. There wasn't any lack of effort or lack of intensity or passion. Everyone came to play, everyone came to win."

"There's a lot sick guys in the locker room right now."



Virginia Tech split end Josh Hyman (19) celebrates one of his two TDs with teammate David Clowney (87) during second half against Virginia Tech.

Hyman puts Hokies in line for ACC title

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Bryan Randall is wrapping up his college career in style, putting Virginia Tech on the verge of an unexpected championship.

Randall threw two second-half touchdown passes, and the 11th-ranked Hokies moved one victory from an Atlantic Coast Conference title with a 24-10 victory over No. 16 Virginia on Saturday.

"The stakes just kept getting bigger," Randall said after leading the Hokies to their seventh consecutive victory and ninth in 10 games.

Virginia Tech (9-2, 6-1) can win the league title — and a Bowl Championship Series berth — by winning next week at No. 9 Miami, the team that moved from the Big East to the ACC with the Hokies this season.

"To go down to Miami and get a win and the whole championship outright by ourselves in the first year, it would be phenomenal," Randall said.

"It would mean a lot to our whole team, the coaches, the program," said Randall, one of 19 seniors honored Saturday. "It would make people respect us. I think we've gained a lot of respect for what we've done."

The Hokies, picked to finish as low as eighth in the ACC this year, have done it by returning to the style of football that lifted them into the national elite a decade ago, using hard-nosed defense, big-play special teams and playing the best football of their opponents.

And that senior quarterback has been a big part of it, too, mentoring a young receiving corps and playing the best football of his career.

"He plays his best when things look the worst," coach Frank Beamer said. "There's just something special about this kid. What a player."

Randall finished 16-for-22 for 200 yards, and passed Don Stock to become the career yardage leader at Virginia Tech. Stock ended his career with 6,009; Randall now has 6,061.

He eclipsed Stock with a 12-yard pass to Jeff King on second-and-12 with 10 minutes left.

Randall celebrated on the next play, finding Josh Hyman against Tony Franklin for the second time, this one for 32 yards and a 17-10 lead.

"I wanted to throw it up there and give Hyman a chance," Randall said of the 5-foot-11 redshirt freshman, who stopped as Franklin ran by, then beat him to the end zone. "He made a play, just like on the other ball."

Earlier, Randall and Hyman teamed on a 45-yard scoring pass. Cedric Humes, who ran for 95 yards after Mike Imoh aggravated a strained hamstring, closed the scoring on a 32-yard run with 5:08 left.

Tech's defense and special teams made three big plays to thwart the Cavaliers (8-3, 5-3), who were playing for a share of the ACC title.

First, the Hokies blocked a 45-yard field goal try by Connor Hughes to end Virginia's first series. Then, after a 78-yard run by Alvin Pearson helped give Virginia a first-and-goal at the 4, Tech's Jonathan Lewis pounced on a fumble by Walt Lundy.

And finally, in perhaps the biggest sequence of the game early in the fourth quarter, the Hokies led 10-7 and stopped three consecutive plays from the 1, forcing Virginia to end a 17-play, 78-yard march with just a tying field goal.

"Guys just kept responding," Hokies defensive end Jim Davis said. "It's something I can't explain. It was so special. Guys just wanted to play. Guys wanted to go three-and-out and keep those guys from winning."

"Every time our back was against the wall, our defense responded."

Virginia coach Al Groh said it somewhat differently.

"I guess you won't need a calculator to see that we left 14 points out there," he said. "Clearly that's how we see it."

After the game, Virginia announced that it would decline any invitation to a bowl following between Dec. 21 and Dec. 22 because of exams, taking the Cavaliers out of the running for the Champs Sports Bowl on Dec. 21.

Iowa St. bumped from Big 12 title tilt

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER
The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — With a kick and a pick, Missouri knocked Iowa State out of the Big 12 championship game.

Adam Crossett kicked a 25-yard field goal in overtime to give Missouri the win and A.J. Kincaid intercepted a pass in the end zone to preserve a 17-14 victory for the beleaguered Tigers on Saturday.

Making just enough plays to salvage a sweet ending to a disappointing season, Missouri (5-6, 3-5 Big 12) broke a five-game losing streak and kept Iowa State from winning the Big 12 North outright.

"It's been a very difficult five or six weeks, and the football team has worked very hard," said Missouri coach Gary Pinkel, who has taken much of the heat for the Tigers' struggles. "It's just very rewarding for me to see them smiling, laughing, feeling good about themselves."

Iowa State (6-5, 4-4) can take some consolation in getting a bowl bid for the fourth time in five years. But the Cyclones, whose last football championship game in 1912, had so much more within their grasp.

Bret Culbertson missed a 24-yard field goal attempt that could have won it regulation, and

College bowl schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000
North Texas (7-5) vs. CU-PA
Payoff: \$750,000
Dec. 21
Champ Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$500,000
ACC vs. Big 12

Wednesday, Dec. 22
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payoff: \$750,000
CUSA vs. MAC or WAC
Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000
CUSA No. 6 vs. Big 12 No. 8
Las Vegas Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000
MWC No. 2 vs. Pac-10 No. 4 vs.
Friday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Payoff: \$750,000
CUSA vs. WAC

Saturday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Troy, Ala.
Blue vs. Gray

Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payoff: \$750,000
WAC vs. ACC No. 6
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payoff: \$750,000
MAC vs. Big Ten No. 7

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Big 12 vs. SEC

Insight Bowl
At Phoenix
Payoff: \$750,000
Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Big East No. 3 or Notre Dame

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Housatonic Bowl
Payoff: \$1.1 million
Texas-El Paso (8-2) vs. Big 12
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payoff: \$1.5 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 12 No. 4

Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payoff: \$750,000
Big East No. 4 vs. Big Ten No. 6 (5-5)

Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
Payoff: \$750,000
MWC No. 3 vs. Navy (8-2)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3

San Valley
At San Jose, Calif.
Payoff: \$750,000
WAC vs. MAC

Friday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payoff: \$750,000
SEC vs. Big Ten No. 4

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payoff: \$1.5 million
Purdue (7-4) vs. Pac-10 No. 3

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payoff: \$1.5 million
MWC champion or TBA vs. Louisville (9-1)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payoff: \$1.2 million
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 4

Saturday, Jan. 1
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payoff: \$1 million
SEC vs. Big 12 No. 2

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payoff: \$2.75 million
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. SEC No. 3

Sugar Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payoff: \$1.6 million
ACC No. 2 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$5.187 million
Iowa (9-3) vs. SEC

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payoff: \$14.5 million
Michigan (9-2) vs. USC (10-1) champion or TBA

Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payoff: \$11-14 million
BCS vs. BCS

Monday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payoff: \$11-14 million
BCS vs. BCS

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payoff: \$11-14 million
BCS1 vs. BCS2

Saturday, Jan. 15
Gridiron Classic
At The Villages, Fla.
North vs. South

East-West Shrine Classic
At San Francisco
East vs. West

Saturday, Jan. 22
Hula Bowl
At Maui, Hawaii
Alina vs. Kai

Saturday, Jan. 29
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.

North vs. South

Cardinals pile up points

C-USA champ Louisville wallops Cincinnati 70-7

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — As Louisville poured on the points, linebacker Brandon Johnson was hoping the Cardinals' high-powered offense and opportunistic special teams would slow down.

Louisville struck quickly and often, beating Cincinnati 70-7 on Saturday to clinch its third Conference USA championship since 2000.

Montrell Jones caught two touchdowns passed and returned a punt for a score, Eric Shelton rushed for 158 yards and Kolby Smith had three short TD runs for Louisville, which reached 70 points for the first time since 1955 despite having the ball for only 18:21.

The quick strikes never gave Johnson and the defense much of a breather.

"I told the guys after the game, 'You guys don't know anything about ball control,'" he said. "I mean, three plays, touchdown; one play, touchdown; two plays, touchdown. But that's how our offense plays. What are you going to do?"

Johnson was part of the problem. He returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and Tiger Jones recovered another blocked punt in the end zone for Louisville (9-1, 7-0), which accepted the league champion's automatic bid to the Liberty Bowl after the game.

Louisville was No. 10 in the latest Bowl Championship Series standings but resisted to settling for the Dec. 31 game in Memphis.

"I'm excited to go to the Liberty Bowl," Montrell Jones said. "The closer you can play to New Year's Day, the better."

The Cardinals were unfazed by gusty winds and steadily rain on Saturday, piling up 357 rushing yards and 491 total yards.

Stefan Lefors, the nation's most efficient passer, had a quiet day in his final home game, going



Louisville's Eric Shelton knocks the helmet off of Cincinnati defender Julian Hall (38) after a 54-yard gain in Louisville's 70-7 victory on Saturday.

8-for-11 for 79 yards with a TD pass. Lefors didn't mind, even with his parents watching him from the stands.

"I wasn't worried. The defense was making plays and the special teams were coming up big," Lefors said. "It was a fun game to be in."

Cincinnati (6-5, 3-3), which had a four-game winning streak snapped, mustered only 186 yards with out senior quarterback Gino Guidugli, who sat out with a broken bone in his throwing hand.

Cincinnati backup quarterback Collin Carey, who had thrown only one pass this season, failed to move the Bearcats beyond their own 34 on their first three possessions.

The Bearcats had four turnovers and 50 total yards at halftime.

"We didn't do much of anything," Cincinnati coach Mark Dantonio said. "I wish I could point to one play and say, 'This is where it happened.'"

Greene gives Georgia 'thumbs-up'

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — David Greene saw the game slipping away. His left thumb was hurting, but he wanted to go back in.

Good thing for Georgia that he did.

After leading the No. 8 Bulldogs to an early lead over Georgia Tech, Greene returned at the end with a fractured thumb to make sure Georgia held on to a 19-13 victory Saturday.

"I felt the momentum slipping," said Greene, who guided the Bulldogs to a crucial field goal late in the game. "I took my cough if I took the brace off my thumb. If anything, I just wanted to give us a little spark."

Greene was hurt on Georgia's first series, fracturing the tip of the thumb on his throwing hand just before he tossed a 28-yard touchdown pass to Fred Gibson. The senior quarterback played one more series before heading to the sideline, apparently to sit out the rest of the game.

Not so fast. With just over seven minutes remaining and the Bulldogs (9-2) struggling to preserve a 19-9 fourth straight win over the Yellow Jackets (6-6), Greene trotted back on the field. He couldn't make any deep throws, and he worked only out of the shotgun to lessen the pain when taking the snap.

Top 25

Rick Clausen was 26-for-41 for 349 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Vols.

Shane Boyd threw two touchdowns to freshman Jacob Tamm and finished 20-for-32 for 218 yards for Kentucky (2-9, 1-7).

Texas Tech 31, 23 Oklahoma State 15: At Lubbock, Texas, Sonny Cumble, the nation's leading passer, had a season-low 281 yards but threw three touchdowns to lead Texas Tech.

Jarett Hicks caught his second TD pass of the game, a 14-yarder, midway through the fourth quarter to make it 24-15 for the Red Raiders (7-4, 5-3 Big 12). Taurian Henderson sealed the win with a 6-yard TD run.

The Cowboys (7-4, 4-4) have dropped four of six games, following a 5-0 start.

Tulsa 37, 20 UTEP 35: At Tulsa, Okla., Ashlan Davis extended his own NCAA record with his fifth kick-off return for a touchdown this season and Tulsa beat a ranked opponent for the first time in more than eight years.

Brandon Knies scored on two short runs and Ural Parrish added 141 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries as the Golden Hurricane (2-9, 2-5 WAC) squandered a 17-point halftime lead before rallying for the win against the Miners (8-3, 6-2).

Triumph: USC a win away from BCS title game

TRIUMPH, FROM BACK PAGE

Palmer's big day was the caper in a Heisman Trophy-winning season. Leinart has one more opportunity to influence the voters in a tightly packed Heisman race.

"I realize the stage was set for national TV," Leinart said. "But I just do the stuff I've been doing all year. Just be a leader, just make plays. I know a lot of people are saying stuff. I just go out and do my job."

Leinart, a junior, completed 24 of 34 passes without throwing an interception. He has two or more touchdowns passes in 22 of his 34 starts at USC and three or more 12 times. He threw five TD passes for the second time, tying the school record set by Rodney Peck and tied by Palmer.

Leinart has 66 touchdown passes in his career, including 28 this season with only five interceptions.

With a light rain falling, Notre Dame stunned the Trojans and a sellout crowd of 92,611 by moving 92 yards on 15 plays the first time they had the ball for a 7-0 lead. Brady Quinn capped the Irish's longest drive of the season by throwing a 1-yard pass to Billy Pritchard for the decisive touchdown.

USC's Ryan Killean kicked a 39-yard field goal late in the opening period, but the Irish responded with a 73-yard punt return position for a 28-yard field goal by D.J. Fitzpatrick, making it 10-3.

Suddenly, the game turned. Notre Dame had trouble moving the ball, and USC couldn't be stopped, scoring on six of its next seven plays. The Irish took the Trojans didn't score during that time was late in the first half, when they ran out the clock.

First, Leinart threw a 12-yard scoring pass to freshman Dwayne Jarrett, capping an 80-yard, seven-play drive. The same combination clicked on a 57-yard play to finish it, 73-0 at the four-yard mark, putting USC ahead for good with 2:06 left before halftime.

Leinart kicked a 42-yard field goal early in the third quarter to make it 20-10. After Fitzpatrick pulled a 39-yard field goal try, though, the final period was a touchdown pass to Reggie Bush, and added a 35-yard to Steve Smith early in the fourth quarter.

Smith played for the first time since he tore his right leg Oct. 9 against California.

Leinart threw a 23-yard TD pass to Jason Mitchell midway through the final period to complete the scoring one play after Notre Dame was called for pass interference on a fake punt.

Jason Mitchell finished with 102 yards and Smith had four receptions for 96 yards.

Quinn completed 15 of 29 passes for 231 yards, threw four touchdowns and finished with 94 yards on 15 carries.

"At first, it was easy, and then we let it slip away," Quinn said. "I don't think this was the best defense we've seen this year. We just couldn't make the plays."

SPORTS



James becomes youngest
NBA player to eclipse
2,000-point mark, Page 25

Triumph of the Trojans

USC wallops Notre Dame behind 5 TDs from Leinart

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For one quarter, Notre Dame was better than No. 1 Southern California.

Then the Trojans got serious and the Fighting Irish had no chance.

Matt Leinart made a big pitch for the Heisman Trophy, passing for a career-high 400 yards and a school record-tying five touchdowns, and the Trojans overcame a sluggish start to beat Notre Dame 41-10 on Saturday night.

The Fighting Irish gained 165 yards and scored 10 points on their first two possessions. They were blanked and picked up only 135 yards after that.

"They came out and punched us in the mouth," USC defensive lineman Shaun Cody said. "Give them credit. Everyone stepped up, made a little adjustment on defense. It was nothing big, we just played more physically against them."

And Leinart began finding his receivers with regularity, throwing for 335 yards after the opening period.

"Matt played great tonight," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "He had great vision, the protection was really there for him. He had an opportunity to freewheel. He made some real good decisions."

"This is just another statement from Matt. He's been doing this for two years. This was no different. The opportunity was there for him tonight, and he seized it."

The win was USC's 20th straight and 21st in a row at the Los Angeles Coliseum — a new school record. The Trojans haven't lost at home since being beaten by Stanford 21-16 on Sept. 29, 2001. That game was coached by current Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham.



Southern Cal's David Kirtman, top left, celebrates Steve Smith's fourth-quarter touchdown against Notre Dame in Los Angeles on Saturday. It was the fourth of five touchdown passes thrown by leading Heisman Trophy candidate Matt Leinart, above, in top-ranked USC's 41-10 victory.

"They found ways to make the big plays and we didn't," was Willingham's appraisal of this game. "That's what makes USC such an explosive team — the ability to generate big plays. They are No. 1 for a reason. The game was right there to be had — we just couldn't grab it."

The victory gave the Trojans (11-0, 7-0 Pac-10) their best record since 1972, when they went 12-0 and won the national championship.

More importantly, USC's 34th victory in 37 games since the start of the 2002 season kept its current national title hopes alive.

Should the Trojans beat UCLA (6-4) next weekend in their regular-season finale, they will almost surely secure a spot in the Orange Bowl for the Bowl Championship Series title.

Carroll has a chance to become the first coach to guide the Trojans to victories over both the Irish and Bruins — USC's biggest rivals — in three straight seasons.

Notre Dame (6-5) leads the series 42-29-5 and had a 15-3-1 record against the Trojans from 1983-2001. But USC has dominated the Irish the last three games, winning each by 31 points.

The Trojans beat the Irish in each of the past two years thanks mainly to terrific passing performances by Carson Palmer and Leinart, who threw for 425 and 351 yards, respectively.

SEE TRIUMPH ON PAGE 31



BC's hopes for Big East title intercepted by Syracuse

Page 30



Fifth-ranked Illini ready for Wake after taking out pesky Gonzaga

Page 26



Barrera outslugs Morales in one of 2004's best fights

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Unbeaten Boise St. crossing fingers for BCS berth Page 29